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Calm comes to 'Freedom Village'

South Koreans living in DMZ hamlet enjoying rare quiet as propaganda broadcasts stop ahead of summits

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

TAESONG-DONG, South Korea — The diplomatic whirlwind leading to planned summits between North Korea and its adversaries in the South and the United States has already paid dividends in this farming hamlet.

Villagers can finally get a good night's sleep.

Taesong-dong, or "Freedom Village" as the military calls it, is the only place where civilians live inside the Demilitarized Zone, the 2.5-mile-wide, 154-mile-long border region that's otherwise a no man's land dotted with land mines and barbed wire.

It's also ground zero for the propaganda wars between the rival nations, which have been locked in a cycle of tensions since their 1950-53 conflict ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty.

The North Korean village of Kijong-dong, which sits less than a mile away on the other side with a 525-foot flag towering overhead, has been dubbed "Propaganda Village" because it's believed to be largely vacant and just for show.

It also has blasted anthems and patriotic songs around the clock for years, providing a constant headache for the some 200 South Koreans on the other side.

SEE VILLAGE ON PAGE 3

A member of the United Nations Command security force stands guard with the South Korean flag flying behind him in the village of Taesong-dong on Tuesday.

KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes



Veteran receives penis, scrotum transplant in surgery hailed as medical first

By ELI ROSENBERG
The Washington Post

An American veteran of the war in Afghanistan who had his genitals blown off by a roadside bomb is the recipient of a donated penis and scrotum that doctors hope will restore his ability to function normally after a 14-hour operation that doctors hailed as a medical first.

The veteran, who asked to remain anonymous for privacy-related reasons, received

the tissue transplant from a team of 11 doctors — nine plastic surgeons and two urological surgeons — at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore in March. The procedure was the result of years of research, studies and cadaver work, giving doctors hope that if it proves successful, it could be used for injured veterans and other men with severe injuries to their genital regions.

"While extremity amputations are visible and resultant disability obvious, some war in-

juries are hidden and their impact not widely appreciated by others," Dr. W.P. Andrew Lee told reporters, speaking of the "devastating impact" that injuries had on men's identity, self-esteem and intimate relationships.

Doctors said they hoped that the patient, who is expected to be released from the hospital this week, would regain "near-normal" urinary and sexual functions as he recovers and his nerves heal over the coming months.

SEE TRANSPLANT ON PAGE 6

"We are all very proud that our loved one was able to help a young man that served this country."

Anonymous donor's family, in a statement released by New England Donor Services

MILITARY

Mattis is optimistic about N. Korea's nuclear pledge

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Jim Mattis expressed optimism Monday about North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's promise to cease testing long-range missiles and nuclear weapons ahead of his expected upcoming summits with the presidents of South Korea and the United States.

"Right now, I think there is a lot of reasons for optimism that the negotiations will be fruitful, and we'll see," Mattis said Monday in response to a reporter's question just before he met with Thai Defense Minister Prawit Wongsuwan at the Pentagon.

The defense secretary did not further elaborate on the issue. Earlier Monday, Pentagon officials declined to respond to questions about Kim's announcement on April 20 that he would suspend his nuclear weapons and intercontinental ballistic missile

programs to focus on economic development.

Some Pentagon officials have privately expressed skepticism about Kim's sincerity, noting North Korea's long history of failing to live up to deals negotiated with the United States, including accords struck by the administrations of former Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama.

Kim is set to meet Friday with South Korean President Moon Jae-in in the heavily fortified border area between their two countries. Kim is also expected to meet in late May or early June with President Donald Trump.

Trump expressed optimism about Kim's announcement via Twitter, noting on April 20 "progress being made" and writing Sunday, in a tweet that also disparaged an NBC News anchor, that "we haven't given up anything & they have agreed to denuclearization (so great for World), site closure, & no more testing!"

North Korea has not publicly announced that it is willing to give up its nuclear weapons stockpiles or that the topic is one that they would consider discussing. South Korean officials have said denuclearization would be discussed when Kim and Moon meet.

The United States maintains its long-held goal "for the complete, irreversible and verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula," said Army Col. Rob Manning, a Pentagon spokesman.

White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Monday that the United States is not convinced Kim is ready to part with his weapons programs. But like Mattis, she expressed optimism.

"We're not naive in this process," she told reporters. "We've seen some steps in the right direction but we have a long way to go."

Sanders said U.S. policy of "maximum pressure" — stringent economic sanctions alongside



LEE JIN-MAN/AP

South Korean soldiers stand guard during a press tour to the Taesungdong freedom village inside the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea in Paju, South Korea, on Tuesday.

diplomatic negotiations — would continue until Kim agreed to surrender his nuclear weapons.

The United States maintains more than 28,000 troops in South Korea, a presence that has remained on the peninsula since the Korean War ended in a cease-fire in 1953. Their presence in South Korea is not expected to be among the bargaining chips that the United States would consider ceding to North Korea.

American and South Korean troops regularly conduct joint

training, including defensive drills to rehearse the nations' reactions should North Korea attack. Manning said Monday that the United States has not adjusted its force posture since it began negotiations with North Korea in recent months.

"From a military perspective from the Department of Defense, there has been no change in our posture and our determination to be ready to fight tonight," he said.

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S. Korea's Moon plans to raise Japanese abductee issue at summit

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korean President Moon Jae-in plans to raise the issue of Japanese citizens who were abducted decades ago by North Korea in his meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un this week.

Moon told Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in a telephone conversation

that resolving the issue would contribute to peace in Northeast Asia, Moon spokesman Kim Eui-kyeom said Tuesday.

Moon is to meet Kim on Friday at the border village of Panmunjom in a rare summit between the Koreas. The rivals remain technically at war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty.

Seoul said the summit will focus on North Korea's nuclear disarmament. Seoul has also brokered a meeting between Kim and President Donald Trump which is expected in May or June.

Japan said North Korea abducted at least 17 Japanese citizens in the 1970s and 1980s to train its agents in Japanese language and culture to spy on South Korea.

North Korea has acknowledged abducting 13 Japanese in the 1970s. It allowed five of them to visit Japan in 2002 and they stayed. North Korea says eight others have died, but their families say the North's statement cannot be trusted.

Trump said he promised Abe during a meeting in Washington last week that he would work hard for the return of Japanese abducted by North Korea.

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PACIFIC

Village: Mayor says South Korean town feels ‘mood for peace’

FROM FRONT PAGE

Mayor Kim Dongku said the noise finally stopped Monday as both Koreas apparently halted the propaganda broadcasts in a goodwill gesture ahead of Friday's summit between their leaders.

"They haven't been broadcasting since yesterday so it's good now, it's quiet now," he told reporters visiting the village Tuesday. "Before that it was so loud. It really bothered people."

South Korea also stopped sending anti-Pyongyang messages and K-pop songs from loudspeakers across the border Monday. The move was aimed at easing military tensions and establishing an environment for peaceful talks, according to the Defense Ministry.

The broadcasts have long been used in negotiations between the sides amid rising tensions over North Korea's nuclear weapons program.

Seoul resumed broadcasts in 2016 after North Korea conducted its fourth nuclear test, setting off the current crisis. Pyongyang quickly followed suit.

Taesong-dong's residents enjoy many benefits for living so close to the North. They don't have to pay taxes and the men don't have to perform mandatory military service. They enjoy some of the best farmland in the country for rice paddies, red peppers, ginseng and other crops.

Children have access to a competitive kindergarten and elementary school, which have just under 40 pupils to share 10 teachers and administrators. Many U.S. troops and other international volunteers assigned to the U.N. Security Battalion that guard the DMZ also teach English classes at the school.

Residency, meanwhile, is strictly limited to descendants of the original inhabitants or to women who marry men who live there. Men are not allowed to marry



Kim Dongku

into the community because the government doesn't want them to exploit the military service exemption, officials said.

Residents can come and go, but they have a midnight-to-dawn curfew and must be present in the village for at least eight months of the year.

Despite the benefits, the aging population has declined in recent years, forcing the school to bus in students from nearby areas. Only eight of the current students are from the village, according to principal Jin Young Jin, who lives in nearby Paju.

Kim Dongku said villagers have keenly felt the rising tensions that many feared were pushing the peninsula to the brink of a new war last year. But their spirits have been lifted as diplomatic efforts to persuade the North to give up its nuclear weapons have gained momentum.

"All residents are floating on air and looking forward to the summit," he said. "I feel a mood for peace seems to have been created. Residents just want to live here in stability. I have high expectations."

Stars and Stripes reporter Yoo Kyong Chang contributed to this report.
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PHOTOS BY KIM GAMEL/Stars and Stripes

Children play Tuesday in a doorway at the elementary school in the South Korean farming hamlet of Taesong-dong, which the military calls Freedom Village.



South Korean children listen to their teacher Tuesday at the elementary school.



Buildings line the North Korean village of Kijong-dong, which the military has dubbed Propaganda Village because it is believed to be largely vacant.

PACIFIC

USO tour brings laughter to troops at Osan

By MARCUS FICHTL
Stars and Stripes

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea — Comedian Jon Stewart and a host of other celebrities that included a country music singer and a TV chef entertained troops Monday evening at the home of the 51st Fighter Wing.

Servicemembers packed Osan's Enlisted Club for the USO show, which kicked off with a monologue by Stewart followed by a one-on-one basketball lesson from former Detroit Pistons Richard

"Rip" Hamilton.

Things shifted into high gear when chef Robert Irvine challenged anyone in the audience to knock out 100 pushups before he could grill a steak. Irvine easily won, and later gave Stars and Stripes some tips on how to beat him.

"We think about pushups as being a staple of all our military training, but what we tend to do as macho men, we go crazy ... that's not the way to do it," he said.

The master chef's pushups tip: Slow down and do them in sets of 10.

"If you do it smartly you can beat me — but I don't think you're going to," Irvine said.

The British Royal Navy veteran, who is participating in his 12th USO tour, said the entertainers are in Korea for more than just laughs.

"Forty-five miles away from here is a guy we're not sure what he's going to do next and [South] Korea's the frontline for that," he said.

"Our job as entertainers is to make sure that the American public know what [servicemembers] do every day," he added. "We can't do enough for those who wear the cloth of our nation, and not forgetting the families that support them while they are deployed."

Sgt. 1st Class Celina Flores, who serves with the Eighth Army at nearby Camp Humphreys, hoped to get Irvine's autograph on a jug. "I'm in love with the Food Network channel and I watch all his shows," said the 31-year-old from Stockton Calif. "I really wanted to try the steak — it got the place smelling so good."

Another highlight of the show involved MMA fighters Paige VanZant and Max Holloway showing off takedown techniques using audience members as guinea pigs.

VanZant, once a contestant on ABC's "Dancing with Stars," then demonstrated a different kind of takedown by winning a dance-off with a local airman.

The nearly two-hour show ended with country singer Craig Morgan, who was once stationed on the peninsula as a soldier, singing "America the Beautiful" with the other celebrities. Gen. Paul Selva, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, joined them on stage.

First Lt. Elizabeth Eastman, 26, of Hollywood, Md., gave her unit patch to Stewart after the show.

Did she get a Comedy Central "Daily Show" patch in return?

"Unfortunately no, but I got his autograph," said the A-10 pilot with Osan's 25th Fighter Squadron.

The show's tour began Sunday at Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo and heads next to Djibouti near the horn of Africa before moving on to the Middle East and Europe.

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PHOTOS BY MARCUS FICHTL/Stars and Stripes

Airmen laugh during a USO show featuring several celebrities at Osan Air Base, South Korea, on Monday.



Left: Marines watch Monday's USO show at Osan. Right: Servicemembers attempt to do 100 pushups before celebrity chef Robert Irvine completes a meal.

Chinese carrier leads live-fire drills in East China Sea

By TYLER HLAVAC
Stars and Stripes

A Chinese carrier group conducted a series of live-fire drills Sunday in the East China Sea, part of the communist nation's latest show of military force in the region.

China's only operational aircraft carrier — the Liaoning — and an unspecified number of ships conducted anti-aircraft and anti-submarine warfare training that included detecting enemy aircraft with radar and launching jets and anti-aircraft missiles, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported Tuesday.

The vessels "successfully detected and dodged an attack range from enemy submarines," said the report, which added the exercise was the latest in a series of military drills that have taken place over the past 10 days in the Western Pacific, including in the

East and South China seas.

The People's Liberation Army Navy, which marked its 69th anniversary this week, has been showcasing its military capabilities recently, beginning last month with a carrier-led formation of nearly 40 ships in the South China Sea.

China has laid claim to a huge swath of the sea, and has spent the past several years building up tiny islets and building military facilities, including airstrips, on them.

Earlier this month, the Liaoning and six other warships conducted drills more than 200 miles south of Japan during which aircraft were launched, Japan's Defense Ministry said.

Chinese activity in the East China Sea has been an issue for Japan. Tokyo protested to Beijing in January after a submarine, presumed to be Chinese, was

detected near Okinawa and the disputed Senkaku Islands — an uninhabited chain surrounded by resource-rich waters between Okinawa and Taiwan — that is claimed by both countries but is administered by Japan.

Vice Foreign Minister Shin-uke Sugiyama expressed "great concern" over the issue and urged China not to repeat the incursion.

The Liaoning is about 60 per-

cent lighter and 30 meters shorter than the USS Ronald Reagan — the U.S. Navy's forward-deployed carrier in the Pacific — and carries about 24 fixed-wing aircraft, compared with the Reagan, which can handle more than 55, according to a Center for Strategic and International Studies analysis of the ship.

China's second aircraft carrier — the Shandong — is being

prepared for its first sea trial, the Global Times reported last month.

China's first aircraft carrier was intended to be used primarily for training and collecting data, while the second is "made for combat missions," an unidentified military expert told the Global Times in the report.

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WAR ON TERRORISM

Report says airman to receive Medal of Honor

By JAMES BOLINGER

Stars and Stripes

A combat controller killed in action in Afghanistan in 2002 is set to become the first airman awarded the Medal of Honor since the Vietnam War, according to a national security news site.

Tech. Sgt. John Chapman will be awarded the medal posthumously later this year, Task & Purpose reported Friday, citing "sources familiar with the matter." Air Force officials told Stars and Stripes on Monday that they could not confirm the report.

"Chappy," as his teammates knew him, was one of two airmen awarded the Air Force Cross, the service's second-highest honor, for actions during the Battle of Roberts Ridge against al-Qaida fighters on a mountainside above Afghanistan's Shah-i-Kot Valley on March 4, 2002. The other was Senior Airman Jason Cunningham, a

pararescueman.

In 2005, the Navy named a cargo ship after Chapman, who fought alongside a SEAL team during the battle.

His award upgrade is based on analysis of video captured by a Predator drone and an AC-130 gunship over the battlefield, the Task & Purpose report said.

Chapman's Air Force Cross citation says he died while engaging an enemy machine gun; however, the aerial footage suggests he fought on, killing one enemy with a gunshot and another in hand-to-hand combat, the report said. When a quick reaction force of 35 Army Rangers arrived in helicopters, Chapman emerged from a bunker to provide cover fire before being gunned down by the enemy.

Chapman's family was told in March that his award had been upgraded to the Medal of Honor, the website reported.

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Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

The Air Force would not confirm reports that Tech. Sgt. John Chapman, a combat controller killed in action in Afghanistan in 2002, will be posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor later this year.

Officials say at least 11 dead in latest Taliban attacks

By AMIR SHAH
AND RAHIM FAIEZ

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A new wave of Taliban attacks across Afghanistan killed at least 11 Afghan soldiers and policemen on Tuesday, officials said, the latest in a particularly deadly week of assaults by militants.

At least five soldiers were killed when their checkpoint was attacked by the Taliban in western Farah province, according to Mohammad Naser Mehri, the provincial governor's spokesman.

Two soldiers were wounded in that attack, in the Bala Buluk

district. Mehri said six Taliban fighters were killed and three others were wounded in the battle, which lasted several hours.

"Reinforcements have arrived and right now, the situation is under control," he added.

Earlier Tuesday, insurgents killed at least four members of the local police force and wounded seven in eastern Ghazni province. The Taliban there targeted the local police security post in the province's district of Jaghathu, said Arif Noori, spokesman for the provincial governor. He also said the gunbattle lasted several hours and that the Taliban used

artillery and rocket-propelled grenade launchers.

Zabihullah Mujahid, the Taliban spokesman, claimed responsibility for both the Farah and the Ghazni attacks in messages to the media.

He said the Taliban took two Afghan soldiers captive in the Farah attack but there was no immediate confirmation from the Afghan military on that.

Later Tuesday, two policemen were killed and six soldiers were captured in attacks on their checkpoints in western Badghis province, said Mohammad Naser Nazari, a member of the provin-

cial council. He blamed the Taliban and said insurgents there stormed several police and military checkpoints in Qadis district before reinforcements arrived and the situation was brought under control.

The Health Ministry in Kabul on Tuesday raised the death toll from a horrific suicide bombing by Islamic State earlier this week to 60, after three more of the wounded had died in hospital.

The ministry also said the number of wounded from Sunday's attack, which targeted a voter registration center in Kabul, was now at 130 after all the data had

been collected, including from private hospitals where the casualties were also taken after state hospitals became overwhelmed in the immediate aftermath of the bombing.

Also, on Monday, Taliban attacks in western Afghanistan killed 18 soldiers and policemen.

Syrian troops target ISIS tunnels, trenches in Damascus

By ALBERT AJI
AND BASSEM MROUE

Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria — The Syrian government launched a new operation Tuesday targeting tunnels used by Islamic State in the capital, state TV said, while shelling by the extremists on a government-held neighborhood left at least four dead.

The TV said the aim of the operation is to destroy trenches and tunnels in the Hajar al-Aswad neighborhood and the nearby Palestinian refugee camp of Yarmouk, which is almost completely controlled by the extremists.

ISIS fighters in Hajar al-Aswad fired a shell on the nearby government-held neighborhood of Nahr Aisha, killing four people and wounding 15, state TV said. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the shelling killed five and wounded 17.

A group of journalists taken



AP

Smoke rises after Syrian government airstrikes and shelling hit the Hajar al-Aswad neighborhood held by Islamic State militants in southern Damascus, Syria, on Tuesday.

to the adjacent neighborhood of Qadam on Tuesday following intense shelling and airstrikes on ISIS positions in the camp and Hajar al-Aswad.

The area in southern Damascus is the last part of the capital not controlled by President Bashar Assad's forces. Other insurgents in the area, including an

al-Qaida-linked group, have said they would relocate to rebel-held regions in northern Syria.

"The operation will continue until its goal is achieved," a Syrian military officer told reporters in Qadam, speaking on condition of anonymity under regulations.

Tuesday's fighting focused on the Joura area in Hajar al-Aswad, from where thick smoke rose up into the sky.

The Observatory, an opposition-linked war monitoring group, said that since the fighting began Thursday, 15 troops and pro-government gunmen and 19 ISIS fighters have been killed. It said dozens were wounded on both sides.

Pierre Krabenbuhl, head of the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, said the agency estimates there were about 6,000 Palestinian refugees in Yarmouk and about 6,000 in the surrounding areas before the latest round of fighting began on Thursday.



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VETERANS

VA nominee's hearing postponed

Senators seek more info on allegations against White House physician

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Senate lawmakers postponed the confirmation hearing for Rear Adm. Ronny Jackson, the nominee for Department of Veterans Affairs secretary, amid an investigation into allegations of his conduct as White House physician.

Jackson was scheduled to face members of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee on Wednesday afternoon, but media reports that surfaced Monday night cast doubt on whether the hearing would take place as planned. Jackson faces allegations of creating a hostile work environment as White House physician, overprescribing medications and drinking on the job, The New York Times reported.

Leaders of the Senate committee are taking the allegations seriously.

In a letter to President Donald Trump on Tuesday, Sens. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., and Jon Tester, D-Mont., asked the White House to turn over a litany of information about Jackson. Their request includes any communication between the Defense Department and Office of Inspector General "regarding allegations or incidents" involving Jackson since 2006 — the year he became White House physician.

"We have very serious, overprescribing constitutional duty to thoroughly and carefully vet each nominee sent to the Senate for confirmation," Isakson, who is the committee chairman, and Tester, the committee's ranking Democrat, wrote in a joint statement. "We will continue looking into these serious allegations and have requested additional information from the White House to enable the committee to conduct a full review."

The committee has not set a new date for the hearing.

Trump announced via Twitter on March 28 that he intended to nominate Jackson to lead the VA — an agency with more than 375,000 employees and a nearly \$200 billion budget. He was an unexpected choice and a relative unknown among the veterans community.

White House officials stood behind Jackson's nomination as critics expressed concerns about his lack of management experience. On Tuesday morning, they delivered another message of support for him.



MANUEL BALCE CENIZA/AP

Senate leaders have postponed the confirmation hearing for President Donald Trump's pick to be Veterans Affairs secretary, Dr. Ronny Jackson, above, because of what they say are "serious allegations" made against Jackson, a Navy rear admiral.

"Admiral Jackson has been on the front lines of deadly combat and saved the lives of many others in service to this country," said Hogan Gidley, deputy White House press secretary. "He's served as the physician to three presidents — Republican and Democrat — and been praised by them all. Admiral Jackson's record of strong, decisive leadership is exactly what's needed at the VA to ensure our veterans receive the benefits they deserve."

During the past week, Jackson met with lawmakers and veterans organizations in Washington, but many of them were looking to Wednesday's confirmation hearing to learn more about the nominee's experience and in what direction he planned to lead the VA.

The atmosphere going into the confirmation process stood in contrast to that of former VA Secretary David Shulkin, who had worked in VA leadership for more than a year before being nominated for the position.

"With Shulkin, we all knew he would be confirmed for sure," American Legion Executive Director Verna Jones said before the hearing was postponed. "But this one is a little bit different in the respect that we

just don't know. Most of us don't know who he is."

Jackson answered a written questionnaire that he turned over to senators ahead of the scheduled hearing, along with financial disclosures and an ethics agreement.

In the questionnaire, he listed only two interviews that he's given — both to local news outlets in Texas, his home state. Most people were introduced to Jackson in January, when he told reporters at the White House about Trump's "excellent health."

Before the allegations of his workplace conduct emerged, Jackson was already expected to face tough questioning at the hearing. Veterans advocates wanted to learn about his plans for private-sector medical care and a host of other challenges within the massive bureaucracy.

In reaction to the news Tuesday, Rep. Mark Takano, D-Calif., criticized Trump over Twitter, stating his administration has failed to provide stability and continuity in leadership at the VA.

"The constant chaos is a disservice to the millions of veterans who rely on the VA for care," Takano wrote.

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3rd temporary leader set for DC VA hospital

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs appointed Adam Robinson on Monday to lead its Washington hospital for about four months, making him the third temporary leader of the facility since its director was fired last year.

Robinson, a physician and the director of the VA Maryland Health Care System, will hold the job for 120 days, according to a VA statement.

Last April, then-VA Secretary David Shulkin removed director Brian Hawkins following the release of a scathing report from the VA Inspector General's Office about widespread, systematic failures at the facility that put veterans at risk. Hawkins held the position since 2011. He was officially fired in September.

Shulkin tapped one of his senior advisers, retired Army Col. Larry Connell, to lead the hospital. After one year in the post, Connell was reassigned April 9 amid an investigation into whether his appointment broke federal protocols.

The hospital's chief of staff, Charles Fassel, was in charge of the facility for the past two weeks.

Many of the problems existing at the hospital in April 2017 have remained unresolved in the past year despite public reassurance that real progress has been made. As recently as March, records show veterans' appointments at the hospital were postponed due to a lack of clinic supplies.

In the VA statement about Robinson's appointment, his achievements at the VA Maryland Health Care System are described and include eliminating veterans' access issues, increasing wait times, improving employee morale and increasing transparency. Robinson spent more than 30 years as a senior leader in the military health care system.

Before Connell was named to lead the D.C. hospital last April, he worked on President Donald Trump's transition team and was a special adviser to Shulkin. Citing a memo from the Office of Personnel Management, CNN reported in March that political influence could have played a role in his selection. Connell was sent back to the VA central office to resume his previous role as a senior adviser.

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Transplant: Patient, a double amputee, kept injury to genitals a secret

FROM FRONT PAGE

"It's a real mind-boggling injury to suffer; it is not an easy one to accept," the patient said in a news release. "When I first woke up, I felt finally more normal."

The transplant included an entire penis, scrotum and partial abdominal wall from a donor, which made it distinct from the four other penis transplants, which included only the organ. Only a couple of the procedures have been successful.

For the transplant, the donor's testes were first removed because of what the scrotum and partial abdominal wall issues, in particular the potential ability to father children with another man's genetic material.

"There were too many unanswered ethical questions with that kind of transplant," Dr. Damon Cooney told reporters.

Another man who lost his penis to cancer was the recipient of a more limited transplant in Massachusetts two years ago, but

he has yet to regain full sexual functioning, Curtis Cetrulo, who runs the reconstructive transplantation program at Massachusetts General, told USA Today.

The transplant that Johns Hopkins doctors did in March involved connecting blood vessels and nerves from the patient to the tissue material, including three arteries, four veins and two nerves, "to provide complete blood transfusion and sensation," Dr. Richard Redett said.

The procedure, which was not covered by the patient's insurance, was estimated to have cost between \$300,000 and \$400,000, the majority of which was covered by the hospital.

Little information has been released about the donor, who was from New England, or his cause of death, though his family released a statement through New England Donor Services about the transplant.

"We are all very proud that our loved one

was able to help a young man that served this country. We are so thankful to say that our loved one would be proud and honored to know he provided such a special gift to you," the family said. "Please know that this is truly a heartfelt statement, as we have several veterans in the family. We hope you can return to better health very soon and we continue to wish you a speedy recovery."

The patient was given a transfusion of bone marrow from the donor and will also require immunosuppressive drugs to prevent his body from rejecting the donated organ.

Doctors noted that it was one of many groundbreaking procedures to emerge from the combat casualties suffered by soldiers at war. Army Sgt. Brandon Marrocco, a quadruple amputee veteran of the Iraq War, received a double arm transplant at Johns Hopkins about five years ago.

About 1,367 male servicemembers suf-

fered genitourinary injuries from 2001 to 2013, according to data from the Department of Defense Trauma Registry cited by The Baltimore Sun.

Dr. Elsieph Cameron Ritchie, a former Army psychiatrist and author of a book about intimacy and injury, told The Sun that one of the first questions soldiers ask after a severe injury is whether their genitals were unharmed.

The patient's injury in Afghanistan also necessitated the amputation of both of his legs below the knee. He said that he kept the extent of his injury a secret.

"That injury, I felt like it banished me from a relationship," he told The New York Times. "Like, 'that's it, you're done, you're by yourself for the rest of your life.' I struggled with even viewing myself as a man for a long time."

Doctors said they had no plans to use the procedure for gender reassignment surgeries at the moment.

MILITARY

Army cuts some mandatory training, other requirements

BY CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

The Army is eliminating online training programs and a leave planning requirement as part of a broader push to reduce tasks that take away from time spent on combat readiness.

Army Secretary Mark Esper ended three online mandates this month: media awareness, Combating Trafficking in Persons and the accident avoidance course. He also lifted several requirements related to unit safety programs and inspections.

Esper and Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley said in an April 13 memo that mandatory training cannot be available only in online formats and that web-based instruction is not a substitute for training conducted by leaders.

Commanders are free to make "prudent risk-informed decisions" to cut tasks that don't involve combat, the first of four related memos said.

The memos eliminated some headquarters-level requirements, such as the use of the Travel Risk Planning System, or TRIPS.

Esper and Milley cited TRIPS as a "burdensome requirement" that "unnecessarily weighs down our Army from focusing on its core mission." A leave form and safety briefing should be sufficient, they said.

TRIPS travel risk assessments were among the documents many soldiers had to submit when requesting leave, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Brent Ely, a helicopter pilot trainer deployed to Kandahar Air Field told Stars and Stripes earlier this year.

In all, eight documents were required to take leave in the States, four times the paperwork he had to file to fly missions over the largely Taliban-controlled Kandahar province.

The streamlining is an "encouraging development," said Leonard Wong, a profes-

sor at the Army War College and a retired Army officer. Wong co-authored a 2015 study that found a widespread trend of Army officers "fudging" or "pencil whipping" tasks or reports, often because they had too many requirements and insufficient time to complete them.

Senior leaders seem to now be pushing back against a bureaucracy that has gradually expanded at the expense of military professionalism, Wong said.

'We're shifting away from trusting checklists and charts and going back to trusting leaders and leadership.'

Leonard Wong
Army War College
professor

would rely on existing Army data systems.

Esper and Milley also called on commanders to make leaders aware of earlier policy changes meant to reduce the burdens many units face.

The changes were greeted cautiously by soldiers and veterans on the online forum Reddit, where some users identifying themselves as soldiers mentioned forging training certificates in the past. Others ranted about time-consuming difficulties with computer-based training systems.

"Less mandatory training and reports for your commander, more time spent doing the rooty-tooty point and shooty,"

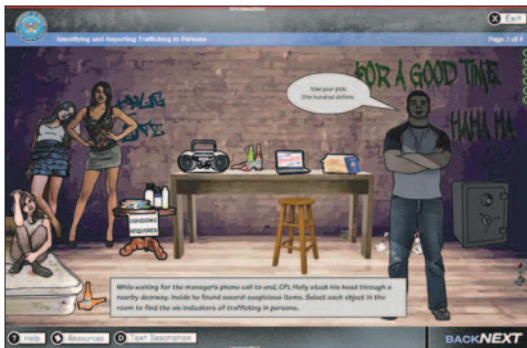
"What we're seeing now is a concerted effort to restore a correct balance," he said via email Tuesday. "We're shifting away from trusting checklists and charts and going back to trusting leaders and leadership."

The Army directives also called on commanders to nix any requirement for subordinates to generate reports related to soldier records and proficiencies. Instead, it said commands



Courtesy of the Department of Defense

Screen grabs, above and below, show the U.S. Department of Defense Combating Trafficking in Persons computer-based training module. The course is one of three mandates being eliminated at Army headquarters level in a bid to streamline training requirements, though combatant commanders may opt to require them.



said one Reddit user named ColonelError, summarizing the Army directives.

Some worried the burden would simply shift to the tasks of recording training or wrestling with the electronic systems.

Wong was more optimistic. "With these signals coming from the highest levels of leadership in the Army,

subordinate leaders will, hopefully, feel empowered to use their judgment in taking prudent risk and exercising disciplined initiative," he said.

Formal policy regulations will soon be issued, according to Army documents.

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NATION

Close panel vote on Pompeo moves nomination ahead

By LISA MASCARO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Mike Pompeo, President Donald Trump's choice for secretary of state, avoided a rare rebuke Monday as the Senate Foreign Relations Committee narrowly recommended him, but the vote served as a warning shot to the White House as nominees to lead the CIA and Veterans Affairs are hitting stiff resistance.

Pompeo, who's now CIA director, received the panel's approval only after Trump's last-minute overtures to Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky. Pompeo's nomination now goes to the full Senate, where votes are tallying in his favor and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said he looks forward to voting to confirm him later this week.

Trump has been quick to fire his top Cabinet secretaries, but the Senate has not been so fast to confirm replacements. A Senate committee has delayed a hearing scheduled Wednesday for Ronny Jackson, the White House physician nominated to head the VA, and Pompeo's potential replacement at the CIA, Gina Haspel, is facing scrutiny.

It's also a reminder of how tough it could be to replace Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein. Trump has publicly mused about firing Rosenstein, who is overseeing special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election.

"Hard to believe," Trump tweeted Monday about what he called "obstruction." "The Dems will not approve hundreds of good people... They are making out the time on approval process for all, never happened before. Need

more Republicans!"

Republicans hold a slim Senate majority, 50-49, with the prolonged absence of Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who is ill.

Pompeo's bid to become the nation's top diplomat was in the hands of a few senators but received a boost Monday when two Democrats — Sen. Joe Manchin, of West Virginia, and Sen. Joe Donnelly, of Indiana — announced their support.

Pressure is mounting on senators from all sides. White House allies are unloading ad campaigns against Democrats from Trump-nom states, but progressive groups are pounding senators' offices in opposition. As soon as Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, D-N.D., announced her support for Pompeo, one group called on her to switch.

Ahead of the Foreign Relations Committee's vote, chairman Bob Corker, R-Tenn., said of the full Senate, "It does appear Mike Pompeo has the votes to be secretary of state."

Supporters point to Pompeo's resume as a West Point and Harvard Law School graduate who has the president's confidence, particularly on North Korea. Opponents are focusing on his hawkish foreign policy views and negative comments about gay marriage and Muslims.

Paul's earlier objections to Pompeo, along with overwhelming opposition from Democrats, had set the secretary of state nominee on track to be the first since 1925, when the committee started keeping records, not to receive a favorable recommendation.

But Trump and Paul talked repeatedly, including just moments before Paul cast a "yes" vote.

Bush in hospital with infection

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Former President George H.W. Bush has been hospitalized in Houston with an infection just after attending the funeral of his wife, Barbara, a spokesman said.

Jim McGrath said Monday on Twitter that Bush, 93, is "responding to treatments and appears to be recovering." He was admitted Sunday morning to Houston Methodist Hospital after an infection spread to his blood, McGrath said.

Barbara Bush was laid to rest Saturday in a ceremony attended by her husband and former presidents Bill Clinton, Barack Obama and George W. Bush and their wives, along with current first lady Melania Trump. Mrs. Bush

was 92, and she and her husband had been married 73 years — the longest presidential marriage in U.S. history.

George H.W. Bush uses a wheelchair and an electric scooter for mobility after developing a form of Parkinson's disease, and he has needed hospital treatment several times in recent years for respiratory problems.

McGrath wouldn't elaborate Monday night on the specifics of Bush's condition, saying additional updates would be issued "as events warrant." But he said the 41st president was eager to get well so he can get to his summer home in Kennebunkport, Maine.

"He's the most goal-oriented person on this planet," McGrath said.



PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVIA/AP

President Donald Trump, first lady Melania Trump, French President Emmanuel Macron and his wife, Brigitte, watch the "Old Guard" during a State Arrival Ceremony at the White House on Tuesday.

Trump praises US-French alliance during Macron visit

By DARLENE SUPERVILE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Praising the strength of America's oldest alliance, President Donald Trump welcomed French President Emmanuel Macron to the White House on Tuesday with a pomp-filled ceremony on the South Lawn, opening a day of talks on the future of the Iran nuclear deal and the crisis in Syria.

Trump said the partnership he forged with Macron at the start of his presidency was a testament to the "enduring friendship that binds our two nations." He thanked the French leader for his "steadfast leadership" during the recent missile strike in response to the alleged chemical attack in Syria.

Macron told Trump that together the U.S. and France would defeat terrorism, curtail weapons of mass destruction in North Korea and Iran and act together on behalf of the planet, a reference to Macron's work to revive a U.S. role in the Paris climate accord.

"History is calling us," Macron said. "It is urging our people to find the fortitude that has guided us in the most difficult of times. France and, with it, Europe and the United States have an appointment with history."

The pageantry of Macron's official state visit, the first of the Trump presidency, comes Tuesday night with a lavish state dinner at the White House. About 150 guests are expected to dine on rack of lamb and nectarine tart and enjoy an after-dinner performance by the Washington National Opera.

Monday night was more relaxed, featuring a helicopter tour of Washington landmarks and a

trip to the Potomac River home of George Washington with their wives for dinner. The presidents and their spouses hopped on a helicopter bound for Mount Vernon, Washington's historic riverside home, for a private dinner one night before the leaders sit down

‘History is calling us. It is urging our people to find the fortitude that has guided us in the most difficult of times.’

Emmanuel Macron
president of France

skeptical of the pact's effectiveness, has been eager to pull out as a May 12 deadline nears. Macron says he is not satisfied with the situation in Iran and thinks the agreement is imperfect, but he has argued for the U.S. sticking with the deal on the grounds that there is not yet a "Plan B."

The Trumps and Macrons helped plant a tree on the White House grounds together before boarding Trump's Marine One helicopter for a scenic tour of monuments built in the capital city designed by French-born Pierre L'Enfant, as they flew south to Mount Vernon.

The young oak is an environ-

mentally friendly gift to the White House from Macron, and one that also bears historical significance. It sprouted at a World War I site in France, the Battle of Belleau Wood, that became part of U.S. Marine Corps lore.

After Trump's helicopter landed at Mount Vernon, the two presidents, each holding his wife's hand, walked a short distance and posed for pictures before they boarded golf carts that ferried them to the front door of Washington's plantation house. The couples were led on a brief outdoor tour before they entered the pale yellow building for dinner of Dover sole, pasta stuffed with lemon ricotta, and chocolate soufflé and cherry vanilla ice cream.

Trump declared the dinner "really fantastic" before returning to the White House.

He ended his first year in office without receiving a foreign leader on a state visit, the first president in nearly 100 years to fail to do so. He was Macron's guest last July at the annual Bastille Day military parade in the center of Paris. Macron and his wife also took Trump and America's first lady on a tour of Napoleon's tomb and whiskied them in the Eiffel Tower for dinner overlooking the City of Light.

Macron was welcomed back to the White House on Tuesday with a traditional arrival ceremony featuring nearly 500 members of the U.S. military and a booming 21-gun salute. The state visit also offers Macron his first Oval Office sit-down with Trump and a joint White House news conference. There's also a State Department lunch hosted by Vice President Mike Pence.

NATION



KEIRSTEAD FOR CONGRESS/via AP

The California Democratic Party endorsed neuroscientist Hans Keirstead in the race for the state's 48th Congressional District seat.



ANGEL DE LEON, CISNEROS FOR CONGRESS/via AP

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee put congressional candidate and Navy veteran Gil Cisneros on its "Red to Blue" list.

Calif. Dems seeking House may crowd each other out

By KATHLEEN RONAYNE
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Fresh-faced Democrats are packing U.S. House races nationwide, inspired to run in the Trump era with hopes of seizing long-held Republican seats in a much-anticipated "blue wave."

But in California, Democrats will find out in June if all that enthusiasm has a downside.

With an open primary that sends the two highest vote-getters to the November general election regardless of affiliation, party leaders fret the crowded fields in several races could splinter the vote enough to lock Democrats out. That fear is most acute in three Southern California districts that are top party targets with multiple Republicans and Democrats running.

Failing to field a candidate in a California race could have national implications. The party needs to flip at least 24 Republican seats, and the cluster of California districts could prove a critical piece of the puzzle.

The party's national campaign arm joined the fray last week, committing resources to Navy veteran Gil Cisneros in the 39th District, where Republican Rep. Ed Royce is retiring. By putting Cisneros on the "Red to Blue" list, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee is signaling to donors that he is the most viable candidate among the six Democrats seeking the seat against seven Republicans.

Meanwhile, incumbent Republican Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, faces four party challengers and six Democrats in the 48th District. Four Democrats and eight Republicans are running to replace Republican Rep. Darrell Issa, who is retiring in the 49th District.

"This is a free for all. This is the Wild West," Jessica Hayes, chairwoman of the San Diego County Democratic Party, said of the 49th District race.

The three districts are among the seven in California targeted by Democrats where voters chose Democrat Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential contest but sent Republicans back to Congress. In three other targeted districts,

at least four Democrats are running.

Washington state also has a top-two primary system, but Democrats don't fear a shutout there because no Republican incumbents face serious intra-party challengers. For example, in the 8th District east of Seattle, a handful of Democrats are squaring off against one Republican to replace a retiring GOP incumbent.

The scenario is different in California, where multiple Republicans are running. Although Republicans also have large fields, a few of the candidates in each race are well-known to voters, whereas the Democratic competitors are mostly political novices.

Democratic strategist Katie Merrill runs a super political action committee aimed at flipping the California seats. It conducted polls in March showing possible shutouts, a scenario she called "an unintended consequence of increased Democratic enthusiasm."

Annie Wright, who became interested in local politics last year and launched a local Orange County Democratic club, said activists are increasingly asking candidates to justify why they are still in the race at debates and town halls. But most ordinary voters don't know who is running, making it hard to predict what will happen, she said.

"We don't have a very good picture right now of who people would vote for," she said.

Some Democrats have dropped out; Michael Kotick exited the Rohrabacher race in early April, urging Democrats to back Harley Rouda and warning the packed field would only help Rohrabacher.

The California Democratic Party endorsed neuroscientist Hans Keirstead in that race. But activists couldn't settle on a candidate in the Issa and Royce districts, nor in the contest against Rep. Jeff Denham in the Central Valley. He also faces a Republican challenger.

Some Democrats and strategists contend shutout fears are overblown. The top-two primary system began in 2012 and has produced a one-party general

in a U.S. House race just once, when Democrats failed to secure a spot in a 2012 contest. In statewide races, a Republican failed to advance a candidate to the 2016 U.S. Senate general election contest, setting up a contest between Democrats Kamala Harris and Loretta Sanchez.

Garry South, an adviser to former Democratic Gov. Gray Davis who advocated for the creation of a top-two primary, downplayed concerns.

"If I had to go into an election cycle with a huge amount of enthusiasm in my base which has produced perhaps a surfeit of candidates, I'll take that risk," he said.

Pa. golf club apologizes for calling police on black female members

Associated Press

YORK, Pa. — A golf club in Pennsylvania has apologized for calling police on a group of black women after the co-owner and his father said they were playing too slowly and refused requests to leave the course.

"I felt we were discriminated against," one of the women, Myneca Ojo, told the York Daily Record. "It was a horrific experience."

Sandra Thompson and four friends met up Saturday to play a round of golf at Grandview Golf Club, where they are all members, she told the newspaper.

At the second hole, a white man whose son co-owns the club came up to them twice to complain that they weren't keeping up with the pace of play. Thompson, an attorney and the head of the York chapter of the NAACP, told the newspaper it was untrue.

On the same hole, another member of the group, Sandra Harrison, said she spoke with a Grandview golf pro, who said they were fine since they were keeping pace with the group ahead of them.

Despite that, the women skipped the third hole to avoid an other issues, she said.

The five are part of a larger group of local women known as Sisters in the Fairway. The group has been around for at least a decade, and all of its members are experienced players who have

golfed all over the county and world, Thompson said. They're very familiar with golf etiquette, she said.

After the ninth hole, where it is customary to take a break before continuing on the next nine holes, three of the group decided to leave because they were so shaken by the earlier treatment, the women told the paper.

Thompson said the man from the second hole, identified as former York County Commissioner Steve Chronister, his son, club co-owner Jordan Chronister and several other white, male employees approached the remaining two women and said they took too long of a break and they needed to leave the course.

The women argued they took an appropriate break, and that the men behind them were still on their beer break and not ready to tee off, as seen in a video Thompson gave the newspaper. The women were told the police had been called, and so they waited.

Northern York County Regional Police arrived, conducted interviews and left without charging anyone.

Jordan Chronister's wife and co-owner of the club, JJ Chronister, said Sunday she called the women personally to apologize.

"We sincerely apologize to the women for making them feel uncomfortable here at Grandview, that is not our intention in any way," she told the newspaper.



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NATION

Tariffs missing target?

Action aimed at China hits firms in areas that backed Trump

By RICHARD LARDNER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's escalating dispute with China over trade and technology is threatening jobs and profits in working-class communities where his "America First" agenda hit home.

The Commerce Department has received more than 2,400 applications from companies seeking waivers from the administration's tariffs on steel and aluminum imports, which may result in duty payments of millions of dollars for larger businesses.

The department has begun posting the requests online for public comment. Several of the applications released so far suggest deep misgivings over Trump's protectionist strategy, especially in areas where he won strong support during the election.

The tariffs are aimed primarily at China for flooding the global market with cheap steel and aluminum. But they've also led to confusion and uncertainty, according to Associated Press interviews and a review of records. In Oklahoma, Texas and Wisconsin, for example, businesses operating in the furniture, energy and food sectors have outlined the financial difficulties they face if they're not excused from the steel tariff.

In Okmulgee, Okla., dozens of jobs hang in the balance as office furniture giant Steelcase waits to hear back from the Commerce Department.

Steelcase subsidiary, PolyVision, operates a plant in Okmulgee that uses a special type of steel from Japan to manufacture a durable glass-like surface for whiteboards and architectural purposes. PolyVision "cannot and will not be able to produce," Steelcase warned, the "economic viability of PolyVision (and) the small town of Okmulgee" would be jeopardized.

The waiver request also indicates that a \$15 million plant expansion may be at risk. Steelcase and PolyVision are on the verge of making the investment, which



PHOTOS BY LOREN ELLIOTT/AP

Ranulfo Flores operates machinery Monday at the Borusan Mannesmann steel pipe plant in Baytown, Texas. Without a waiver, Borusan Mannesmann Pipe says it may face tariffs of \$25 million to \$30 million annually if it imports steel tubing and casing from its parent company in Turkey.

Furniture, energy and food sector businesses in Oklahoma, Texas and Wisconsin have outlined the financial difficulties they'd face if they're not excused from the steel tariff.

would create new construction and manufacturing jobs, according to the request.

Roger Ballenger, Okmulgee's city manager, said he and other local officials are "very concerned about the situation with PolyVision."

The tariffs — 25 percent on imported steel and 10 percent on imported aluminum — are designed to protect and rebuild the U.S. companies that manufacture the metals. The U.S. temporarily exempted several major trading partners, including the European Union, Mexico and Canada.

China, which was left on the target list, retaliated by imposing tariffs on \$3 billion in U.S. products, including apples, pork and Ginseng.

Trump responded by adding more protectionist measures as punishment for Chinese theft of U.S. intellectual property. Beijing punched back by proposing tariffs on \$50 billion in U.S. products including small aircraft and soybeans — a direct threat to rural areas that were key to Trump's victory.

John Hritz, CEO of JSW Steel USA in Baytown, Texas, said his company is in lockstep with Trump's approach. "We're in favor of growing the steel industry in this country," Hritz said.

JSW Steel, owned by Indian conglomerate JSW Group, is embarking on a \$500 million overhaul of the plant that it says will



Jose Mata grinds a steel pipe at the Borusan Mannesmann plant.

create hundreds of jobs.

The growth would be welcomed in Baytown, where unemployment is 9.8 percent, more than double the national rate. Baytown is located partly in Harris County, which Democrat Hillary Clinton won, and partly in Chambers County, which Trump handily won.

The future is much murkier for another Baytown steel business, Borusan Mannesmann Pipe. Without a waiver, Borusan may face tariffs of \$25 million to \$30 million annually if it imports steel tubing and casing from its parent company in Turkey, according to information the company provided to the AP.

Borusan said the Baytown production line would no longer be competitive and "jobs would be threatened" if it cannot import 135,000 metric tons of steel annually over the next two years. The pipes Borusan produces are used primarily as casing for oil and natural gas wells.

But if Commerce says yes, Borusan will be able to unlock a \$25 million investment in the Baytown facility as it seeks to become a "100 percent domestic supplier," according to the waiver request. An additional \$50 million expansion in pipe fabrication capacity would follow, the company said, leading to as many as

170 new jobs.

Seneca Foods Corp., the nation's largest vegetable canner, said in its waiver application that it's unclear, at best, if U.S. suppliers have the ability or willingness to expand their production in the long term to meet the company's annual demand for tinplated steel.

But "clearly they cannot meet demand in the short term," Seneca told Commerce officials. That means Seneca has to buy a portion of what it needs from overseas.

A person with knowledge of Seneca's situation said the company would face a \$2.25 million duty if the Commerce Department doesn't approve its waiver request for 11,000 metric tons of tinplate it already agreed to purchase from China. The material is to be delivered this year and next, according to the waiver request. The person was not authorized to speak publicly and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity.

Seneca said it employs more than 400 people at can-making facilities in Wisconsin and Idaho and near its headquarters in New York's Wayne County, where Trump bested Clinton. The company doesn't warn layoffs are imminent if the waiver isn't approved. Instead, the tariffs would likely come out of Seneca's bottom line, the person said.

Ariz. border agent could face retrial in shooting

By JACQUES BILLEAUD
AND ANITA SNOW
Associated Press

PHOENIX — Prosecutors are evaluating whether to pursue a retrial for a U.S. Border Patrol agent on manslaughter charges after an Arizona jury deadlocked on the lesser counts.

A mistrial was declared Monday in the case of Agent Lonnis Swartz after Tucson jurors acquitted him of a second-degree murder charge in the 2012 shooting death of a teenager from Mexico.

The decision means prosecutors could seek another trial for Swartz on the manslaughter charges in the death of Jose Antonio Elena Rodriguez, who was fatally shot as he threw rocks at authorities during a drug-smuggling attempt.

The jury deliberated about 18 hours over five days in what human rights attorneys say was the first prosecution of a Border Patrol agent in a fatal shooting across the border.

Swartz fired 16 shots late on Oct. 10, 2012, through a 20-foot fence that sits on an embankment above Mexico's Calle Internacional, a Nogales street lined with homes and small businesses.

Prosecutors acknowledged during the monthlong trial that Elena Rodriguez was lobbing rocks across the border during a drug smuggling attempt. But they say he did not deserve to die.

Defense attorneys countered that Swartz was justified in using lethal force against rock-throwers and shot from the U.S. side of the border in self-defense.

Defense attorneys Sean Chapman and Jim Calle didn't return a phone call seeking comment on the jury's decision.

Art Del Cueto, head of the Tucson union for Border Patrol officers, said: "I believe that justice was properly served. The jurors took their time, and we're pretty happy with it."

Prosecutor Elizabeth Strange said her office respects the jury's decision.

The Border Patrol came under close scrutiny during the Obama administration for allegations involving excessive use of force. Customs and Border Protection, its parent agency, reported 55 incidents in which employees used firearms from Oct. 1, 2011, to Sept. 30, 2012. The number of incidents fell to 17 for the same period five years later.

Swartz initially was charged with second-degree murder in the shooting of Elena Rodriguez in Nogales, Mexico.

U.S. District Judge Raner Collins told the jury in his instructions that they could consider a lesser charge of voluntary or involuntary manslaughter if they had trouble reaching a verdict on the more serious charge.

NATION

Fla. panel to examine state's mass shootings

By TERRY SPENCER
Associated Press

COCONUT CREEK, Fla. — The chairman of a commission tasked with investigating government actions surrounding the Florida high school massacre and the state's other mass shootings told his members Tuesday that they need to push aside ideology and base their final report solely on whatever facts they uncover.

Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri told the 16 members of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission as they began their first meeting that their goal should be to prevent any more mass shootings such as the one Feb. 14 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas

High School. A gunman killed 14 students and three staff members and wounded 17 during a six-minute spree inside the three-story freshman building. Other students hid in fear inside their classrooms or fled to the streets.

"Nobody else should have to endure what those children had to endure that day," Gualtieri said.

The commission also was scheduled Tuesday to receive an updated report on the investigation from the Broward Sheriff's Office. The commission will examine the department's conduct before, during and after the shooting.

Deputy Scot Peterson, the school's security officer, retired after Sheriff Scott Israel criticized him and planned to suspend

him for not rushing into the building to confront the suspect, whom deputies have identified as Nikolas Cruz, 19, a former Stoneman Douglas student. The commission also will consider the conduct of other deputies who arrived at the school but remained outside.

School counselors and mental health officials will appear before the commission to talk about their contact with Cruz. He spent time at a school for emotionally and mentally disturbed students before being allowed to transfer briefly to Stoneman Douglas. He was kicked out later.

Cruz's attorneys have said he would plead guilty in exchange for a life sentence. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty.

The commission also will examine other Florida mass shootings, including a 2016 massacre at Orlando's Pulse nightclub that killed 49, and a 2017 shooting at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport that left six dead.

Commission members include law enforcement administrators from throughout Florida, education officials, a state senator, a mental health counselor and the fathers of victims Alex Schachter, Meadow Pollack and Aliana Petty. The members were appointed by Gov. Rick Scott, state House Speaker Richard Corcoran and Senate President Joe Negron.

The commission's final report is due Jan. 1.

Mich. State kept ties to coach accused of abuse

By MICHAEL TARM
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Michigan State University, already reeling from the scandal involving a gymnastics doctor who molested young athletes, has maintained ties to a prominent volleyball coach for decades after he was publicly accused in 1995 of sexually abusing and raping six underage girls he trained in the 1980s.

Letters obtained by The Associated Press from advocates for the accusers reveal the school has been under pressure for at least a year to sever its relationship with Rick Butler. He runs training facilities in suburban Chicago, where for decades has been a pipeline for top volleyball recruits, including Michigan State. MSU also held exhibition games for successive years at his facilities, at least through 2014, according to online records.

Butler's accusers say he threatened to use his national influence to thwart their college prospects if they didn't accept his advances.

Questions about ties to Butler add to the scrutiny of Michigan State that began when Dr. Larry Nassar was charged in 2016 with abusing scores of gymnasts over 20 years while he had an office on campus. A former dean, William Strampel, was recently charged with failing to protect patients from Nassar and with sexually harassing female students.

Unlike Nassar, who will spend the rest of his life in prison, the 63-year-old Butler has never been criminally charged and has denied sexually abusing anyone.

The conduct in question occurred more than 30 years ago and was already beyond the statute of limitations for prosecution when the first three accusers came forward in 1995. Three others came forward more recently.

One of the initial accusers, Sarah Powers-Barnard, said Butler molested her hundreds of times over two years starting when she was 16 and he was around 30. She says he raped her at his home, in cars and even in a train-car bathroom as her teammates sat nearby.

Michigan State has "turned a blind eye" to Butler's sordid history, she said.

In a short Monday statement responding to AP questions about Butler's connections to Michigan State and its head women's volleyball coach, MSU said Butler is currently "not affiliated with MSU in any way." The university, it added, "is not actively recruiting players from MSU at this time."

But the eight-sentence statement did not address other questions put to it by the AP, including how long the school has been aware of the allegations, when any affiliation with Butler might have ended or why MSU had ties to him for so long after he was publicly accused of sexual abuse and rape.

In a 2008 report, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services found no evidence to support Butler's contention that the three athletes were



STACIE SCOTT, LINDCOLN (NEB.) JOURNAL STAR/AP

Michigan State University maintained ties to volleyball coach Rick Butler after he was accused of sexually abusing and raping six underage girls.

lying.

Butler acknowledged during a 1995 hearing held by USA Volleyball, the sport's national governing body, that he had sex with the three. He insisted it was after they turned 18 and was consensual. He has described the allegations as a "smear campaign."

USA Volleyball in December banned Butler from its events for life, and the Amateur Athletic Union stripped him of his membership early this year. Those groups acted under pressure from some of the same activists now pressing Michigan State about Butler.

Michigan State cannot plausibly claim it was unaware of the allegations.

Chicago-area media widely covered the accusations when the first accusers came forward in 1995. The allegations have been covered periodically since then, including in a 2015 feature on ESPN's "Outside the Lines" and in a recent Chicago Sun-Times effort.

Efforts to banish Butler have been driven partly by Nancy Hogshead-Makar, an Olympic swimming champion who later became a civil rights lawyer. She now leads a Florida-based group called Champion Women, which advocates for female athletes.

The school's volleyball coach "is conducting business with — a known sexual abuser," Hogshead-Makar wrote on July 21, 2017, to then-Michigan State athletic director Mark Hollis and to the school's then-general counsel, Robert Noto. She got no response.

In a Jan. 19 letter, Hogshead-Makar said the university had obligations to avoid dealing with Butler under Title IX, the federal law forbidding sex discrimination in education. Michigan State did not respond.

The bans on Butler do not prohibit him from training children, said Emily Swanson, a Denver lawyer who has also spoken out against him. She urged schools to refuse to recruit his athletes, even if some miss out on scholarships as a result.

"If schools stopped recruiting his players, players would stop going to him to train," she said. "That would shut him down."

Court rules for human in copyright fight over selfie taken by monkey

By SUDHIN THANAWALA
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A U.S. appeals court on Monday favored the creator over animals in a novel copyright lawsuit filed over a series of entertaining selfies taken by a monkey with a toothy grin.

U.S. copyright law does not allow lawsuits that seek to give animals the rights to photographs or other original work, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled. Copyright infringement can only be claimed on behalf of humans, the court said.

The three-judge panel unanimously upheld a lower court ruling that dismissed the lawsuit by the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals against a photographer whose camera was used by a crested macaque to take photos in 2011.

PETA's 2015 suit against wildlife photographer David Slater sought financial control of the photographs — including a now-famous selfie of the monkey grinning — for the benefit of the animal named Naruto.

Jeff Kerr, general counsel for PETA, said the group was reviewing the opinion and had not decided yet whether it would appeal.

"Naruto should be considered the author and copyright owner, and he shouldn't be treated any differently from any other creator simply because he happens to not be human," Kerr said.

The problem for Naruto was that copyright law did not "expressly authorize animals to file copyright infringement suits," 9th Circuit Judge Carlos Bea said in the ruling. The judge said the law reserved that power only for humans.

The court ruled Slater was entitled to attorneys' fees in the case and sent it back to the district court to determine the amount.

Slater, who lives in the United Kingdom, said his attorneys' fees were welcome after the case took a toll financially and emotionally.

Slater, 53, declined to say how much money he has made from the monkey selfies, but called the revenue "embarrassingly low."

The PETA lawsuit is not the only time in recent years that activists have sought to extend human rights to animals. Steven Wise, an attorney for the group, Nonhuman Rights Project, has argued in state courts that elephants and chimpanzees should be treated legally as people with a right to liberty.

In a separate opinion in the selfie case, 9th Circuit Judge N. Randy Smith called PETA's lawsuit "frivolous" and said he would not have ruled on the merits of the copyright claim but would have dismissed the case on other grounds.

Naruto snapped the photos while Slater was on a trip to Sulawesi, Indonesia. Slater later argued that his company, Wildlife Personality Ltd., owned worldwide commercial rights to the photos.

U.S. District Judge William Orrick ruled in a ruling in 2016 that "while Congress and the president can extend the protection of law to animals as well as humans, there is no indication that they did so in the Copyright Act."

PETA appealed that ruling to the 9th Circuit.

Following oral arguments, Slater and PETA announced in September they reached a settlement under which Slater agreed to donate 25 percent of any future revenue from the images to charities dedicated to protecting crested macaques in Indonesia.

Lawyers then asked the 9th Circuit to dismiss the case and throw out Orrick's decision.

The appeals court refused, saying a decision in this "developing area of the law" would help guide lower courts and considerable public resources had been spent on the case.

Kerr said Monday the 9th Circuit ruling would not affect the settlement.

NATION

Eatery shooting suspect found armed in woods

By SHEILA BURKE
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Without knowing who he was or what he might do, police briefly had Travis Reinking in their sights days before the deadly assault on a Waffle House restaurant.

Alerted to the theft of a BMW from a car dealer last week, officers decided against a risky police chase, knowing the car had a GPS device and could soon be located.

Sure enough, the car was recovered the same day, outside Reinking's apartment. But police didn't figure out who stole it until Sunday, after the Waffle House attack. By then, police say, the 29-year-old with a troubled past used an assault weapon — the same AR-15 once seized from him at the FBI's request — to kill four people and wound four others.

Reinking escaped on a foot-think customer wrestled the gun from his grasp, and he shed the only item of clothing he was wearing, a green jacket. By the time he was captured in the woods nearby, police had searched his apartment and found the key fob to the stolen BMW.

Nashville Police Department Lt. Carlos Lara told reporters that a detective was tipped to the suspect's presence by some construction workers and confronted Reinking, who lay down on the ground to be handcuffed. He carried a black backpack with a silver semi-automatic weapon and 45-caliber ammunition. Reinking then asked for a lawyer and was taken to a hospital before being booked on four counts of criminal homicide.

The arrest ended a 24-hour

manhunt involving more than 160 law enforcement officers, but it left troubling unanswered questions about official responses to months of bizarre behavior before the restaurant attack, including encounters with police in Illinois and Colorado and an arrest at the White House that raised red flags.

Reinking was not armed in July when he entered a restricted area near the White House, but at the FBI's request, Illinois police revoked his state firearms card and seized four guns from him, including the AR-15 used in the shootings.

But Tazewell County Sheriff Robert Huston said deputies eventually returned the guns to Reinking's father on the promise he would "keep the weapons secure and out of the possession of Travis." Don Aaron, a Nashville Police spokesman, said Reinking's father "has now acknowledged giving them back" to his son. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives special Agent Marcus Watson said Monday that his father's action is "potentially a violation of federal law."

Police said about 20 customers were in the restaurant when Reinking opened fire. The first victims were Taurean Sanderlin, 29, of Goodlettsville, and Joe Perez, 20, of Nashville, shot down in the parking lot. Sanderlin was an employee at the restaurant.

DeEbony Groves, 21, a student at Nashville's Belmont University and Akliah Dasilva, 23, a rap artist and music video producer, were killed inside the restaurant before customer James Shaw Jr. grabbed the hot muzzle of the assault weapon and wrestled it away.



A worker vacuums glass Monday outside the Waffle House restaurant in Nashville, Tenn., where four people were killed Sunday.



Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives personnel search a wooded area Monday near the Church of Christ Burnette Chapel, scene of the 2017 Antioch church shooting, for the Waffle House gunman. Travis Reinking was charged Monday in the attack.

Prince's heirs file wrongful death lawsuit

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Prince's heirs have sued Walgreens and the Illinois hospital that treated the music superstar after he suffered from an opioid overdose, alleging that a doctor and various pharmacists failed to provide Prince with reasonable care, contributing to his death.

The wrongful death lawsuit filed in Cook County, Ill., alleges a doctor and pharmacist at Trinity Medical Center in Moline, Ill., failed to appropriately treat and investigate Prince's April 15, 2016, overdose, and that he died "as a direct and proximate cause of one or more ... deviations from the standards of care."

It accuses Walgreen Co. and pharmacists at two of its Minnesota branches of "dispensing prescription medications not valid for a legitimate medical purpose."

Walgreens and the hospital's parent company both declined to comment Monday.

Prince was 57 when he was found unresponsive at his Paisley Park studio compound in suburban Minneapolis on April 21, 2016. An autopsy found he died of an accidental overdose of fentanyl, a synthetic opioid.

Authorities said it was likely Prince didn't know he was taking the dangerous drug, which was laced in counterfeit pills made to look like a generic version of the painkiller Vicodin. The source of those pills is unknown.

A week before he died, Prince passed out on a private plane, which made an emergency stop in Moline. The musician had to be revived with two doses of a drug that reverses effects of overdose.

At Trinity Medical Center, Prince refused medical tests but was asked what drugs he took. Documents show a pill that he had with him, which was marked as Vicodin, was sent to the pharmacy for testing. A hospital pharmacist said it appeared to be Vicodin and returned it to Prince. The allegations against Walgreens stem from prescriptions that were dispensed to Prince but written under the name of his bodyguard.

Cosby's wife joins him in courtroom for closing arguments

Associated Press

NORRISTOWN, Pa. — Accompanied for the first time by his wife of more than 50 years, Bill Cosby walked into a courthouse Tuesday morning ahead of closing arguments in his sexual assault retrial.

Camille Cosby had been absent from the courtroom as prosecutors called a series of women to the stand who testified her husband drugged and sexually assaulted them, but she was by his side Tuesday for the trial's conclusion.

The jury that will start deliberating Cosby's fate has heard the comedian described over the past two weeks both as a "serial rapist" and a con artist's victim.

They have seen a half-dozen accusers testify that the man once revered as "America's Dad" had a sordid secret life that involved preying on women for his own sexual gratification. And they have heard from a witness who says his chief accuser talked about framing a high-profile person to score a big payday.

Now, seven men and five women who have been kept in a suburban Philadelphia hotel, away from family, friends and daily routines, will get to have their say in the first big celebrity trial of the #MeToo era.

"You now have all of the evidence," Judge Steven O'Neill told them after Cosby's lawyers rested on Monday without calling the 80-

year-old comedian to the stand. "Try to relax, so that you're on your game tomorrow."

Jurors could be in for a marathon.

Before going off to deliberate, they will hear both sides rehash the case in lengthy closing arguments, and they will get O'Neill's instructions in the law.

Cosby is charged with three counts of aggravated indecent assault — all stemming from Andrea Constand's allegations that he knocked her out with three pills he called "your friends" and molested her at his suburban Philadelphia mansion in January 2004.

Each count carries a sentence of up to 10 years in prison.



Bill Cosby arrives at the courthouse Tuesday with his wife, Camille, for his sexual assault trial in Norristown, Pa.

MATT SLOCUM/AP



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NATION

FDA eyes e-cig appeal to teenagers

BY MATTHEW PERRONE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal health officials are cracking down on underage use of a popular e-cigarette brand following months of complaints from parents, politicians and school administrators.

The Food and Drug Administration said Tuesday it has issued warnings to 40 retail and online stores as part of a nationwide operation against illegal sales of Juul to children.

FDA regulators also are asking manufacturer Juul Labs to turn over documents about the design, marketing and ingredients of its devices. The rare request particularly focuses on whether certain product features are directly appealing to young people.

Like other e-cigarettes, Juul is an electronic device that turns liquid — usually containing nicotine — into an inhalable vapor. Thanks in part to its resemblance to a small computer flash drive, Juul has become popular with some teenagers as a discreet way to vape at school and in public.

Health advocates have worried about the popularity of vaping products among kids and the potential impact on adult smoking rates in the future. A recent government-commissioned report found “substantial evidence” that young people who use e-cigarettes are more likely to try cigarettes.

FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb said the agency plans additional actions in coming weeks.

This isn't the only product that we're looking at, and this isn't the only action we're going to be taking to target youth access to tobacco products, and e-cigarettes in particular,” Gottlieb said in an interview.

Juul sales have exploded over the past two years and the brand now accounts for 55 percent of the U.S. market for e-cigarettes, according to industry figures. That's up from just 5 percent of the market in 2016.

The San Francisco-based company said in a statement it agrees with the FDA that underage use of its products is “unacceptable.”

“We already have in place programs to identify and act upon these violations at retail and online marketplaces, and we will have more aggressive plans to announce in the coming days,” the statement read.

Juul Labs says it monitors retailers to ensure they are following the law. Its age verification system searches public records and sometimes requires customers to upload a photo ID.

E-cigarettes have grown into a \$4 billion industry in the U.S. despite little research on their long-term effects, including whether they are helpful in helping smokers quit cigarettes.

That's the sales pitch made by Juul and many other e-cigarette manufacturers.

“Juul delivers nicotine satisfaction akin to a cigarette in a format that's as simple and easy to use,” states the company's website. A Juul “starter kit” can be ordered online for \$49.99. The company's website is intended to sell only to customers ages 21 and up.

The FDA gained authority to regulate e-cigarettes in 2016, but anti-smoking advocates have criticized the agency for not policing the space more aggressively to stop companies from appealing to underage users, particularly with flavors like mango, cool cucumber and creme brulee.



A Southwest Airlines plane sits in a remote area of the Yuma, Ariz., International Airport after the plane had a section of fuselage tear away during a 2011 flight. Over the years, the Dallas-based carrier has paid millions of dollars to settle safety violations.

Southwest still has strong safety record

BY DAVID KOENIG
Associated Press

DALLAS — Southwest Airlines runs its planes hard. They make many short hops and more trips per day than other U.S. airliners, which adds to wear and tear on parts, including the engines.

As the investigation into last week's deadly engine failure continues, Southwest CEO Gary Kelly could face questions about whether the company's low-cost business model — which puts its planes through frequent takeoffs and landings — is putting passengers at risk.

Some aviation safety experts say they see no reason for alarm. And, in fact, Southwest's safety record is enviable. Until last week, no passenger had died in an accident during its 47-year history.

Still, the Dallas-based airline has paid millions over the past decade to settle safety violations, including fines for flying planes that didn't have required repairs. Twice in the past nine years, holes have torn open in the roofs of Southwest planes in flight.

In another episode in 2016, an engine on a Southwest jet blew apart over Florida

because of metal fatigue, or wear and tear, hurling debris that struck the fuselage and tail. No one was hurt.

Then, last week, one of the engines on Southwest Flight 1380 blew apart at 32,000 feet over Pennsylvania, spraying the Boeing 737 with shrapnel and killing Jennifer Riordan, 43, a mother of two who was blown partway out a broken window. The National Transportation Safety Board said a fan blade that had snapped off the engine was showing signs of metal fatigue.

The union representing Southwest mechanics recently accused the company of pressuring maintenance workers to cut corners to keep planes flying. And the Federal Aviation Administration investigated union whistleblower complaints and found mistrust of management so serious that it could hurt safety.

In one case, investigators said a worker who should have been praised for finding corrosion on a plane in Dallas was chastised for working beyond the scope of the task he had been assigned. The leader of the Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association, Bret Oestreich, said Southwest had created a culture of hostility and retaliation.

Nevertheless, aviation safety experts and longtime industry watchers said they do not consider Southwest unsafe.

Southwest's short, frequent flights put more stress on the plane and engines, like a car used heavily in stop-and-go city traffic, said Alan Diehl, an aviation-safety consultant and former NTSB and Air Force accident investigator.

Diehl said, however, that Southwest's crews are accustomed to the quicker pace and that their work is made easier because Southwest flies only Boeing 737s.

Southwest jets make on average 5.3 flights per day compared with between 2.8 and 3.4 per day at American Airlines, Delta and United, according to an analysis by industry newsletter Airline Weekly using information from airline data provider Diio.

Southwest flies frequently on short routes such as Los Angeles to San Francisco and Dallas to Houston. Its average flight is 764 miles, the shortest among U.S. airlines and barely half as long as the average at American and Delta, according to the Airline Weekly analysis. Each takeoff and landing contributes to wear and tear on the aircraft.

Ariz. governor pushing for teacher raises as strike looms

BY BOB CHRISTIE
AND MELISSA DANIELS
Associated Press

PHOENIX — Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey pushed state lawmakers Monday to approve big teacher raises as school districts make plans to close if educators who call his proposal insufficient launch the first-ever statewide strike this week.

The Republican governor has stuck to his plan to increase teacher pay 20 percent by 2020 after educators voted to walk off the job Thursday because it did not include an overall boost in school funding or raises for support staff. The GOP-dominant Legislature and others are wary of how the state will pay for the plan.

Ducey, who is running for re-election, has sent a message to lawmakers, vetoing 10 pieces of Republican legislation last week to show that he wants serious discus-

sions on a state budget that implements his proposal. Legislative leaders say it is unlikely they will reach an agreement before the strike.

The political dealing comes as Arizona teachers, among the lowest-paid in the U.S., ramp up a grass-roots effort that spurred weeks of protests and joined a national movement for higher salaries. It started in West Virginia, where a strike garnered a raise, and spread to Oklahoma, Kentucky and, most recently, Colorado.

More than a dozen Colorado school districts, including the 10 largest, are canceling classes or sending students home Thursday and Friday because of planned teacher protests. The districts account for more than half of the approximately 910,000 students enrolled in Colorado schools.

In Arizona, teachers are keeping up demonstrations before school and lin-

ing busy streets during rush hour as the walkout nears. Car windows throughout the Phoenix area are scrawled with supportive messages, and businesses have put up signs backing the so-called #RedforEd campaign.

But teachers could face consequences in this right-to-work state, where unions do not collectively bargain with school districts and representation is not mandatory.

The Arizona Education Association, the largest teacher membership group, has warned its 20,000 members about a 1971 Arizona attorney general opinion saying a statewide strike would be illegal under common law and participants could lose their teaching credentials.

No school district has said they would fire educators who strike or revoke teaching certificates.

WORLD

Motive not known in Toronto van attack

10 killed as driver plows into pedestrians on sidewalk

By CHARMAINE NORONHA
Associated Press

TORONTO — A 25-year-old who plowed a van into a crowded Toronto sidewalk was ordered held Tuesday on 10 counts of murder and 13 of attempted murder as Canadian authorities.

Alek Minassian showed little overt emotion as he made a brief appearance in a Toronto courtroom in a white jumpsuit and handcuffs. The judge ordered him detained without bond and scheduled the next hearing for May 10.

Meanwhile, about 20 officers made their way down the van's deadly path on Yonge Street searching for any evidence. Nearby, mourners had put together a makeshift memorial to the victims.

"It was like he was playing a video game, trying to kill as many people as possible," said Panna Patel, 42, who stopped by the memorial and had been at the scene a day earlier, getting cash from an ATM as it occurred. "He was looking people directly in the eye, making eye contact, it was so scary. He wasn't remorseful at all."

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau dismissed the possibility of terrorism, saying

that authorities see no national security element in the case.

Authorities so far had not disclosed a possible motive or cause, though "the incident definitely looked deliberate," Police Chief Mark Saunders told reporters at a late-night news conference.

Saunders said Minassian, who lives in the Toronto suburb of Richmond Hill, had not been known to police previously. An online social media profile described him as a college student.

Authorities released few details in the case, saying the investigation was still underway, with witnesses being interviewed and surveillance video being examined.

"We are looking very strongly to what the exact motivation was for this particular incident to take place," Saunders said. "We need every single piece of this puzzle so we can have a fulsome picture and account as to exactly what took place here."

The driver was heading south on busy Yonge Street around 1:30 p.m. and the streets were crowded with people enjoying an unseasonably warm day when the van jumped onto the sidewalk.

Ali Shaker, who was driving near the van at the time, told Canadian broadcast



ARON VINCENT ELKAIM, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Police gather near a damaged van after a vehicle mounted a sidewalk, crashing into pedestrians in Toronto on Monday.

outlet CP24 that the driver appeared to be moving deliberately through the crowd at more than 30 mph.

"He just went on the sidewalk," a distraught Shaker said. "He just started hitting everybody, man. He hit every single person on the sidewalk. Anybody in his way he would hit."

Witness Peter Kang told CTV News that the driver did not seem to make any effort

to stop.

"If it was an accident he would have stopped," Kang said. "But the person just went through the sidewalk. He could have stopped."

Video broadcast on several Canadian outlets showed police arresting the driver, dressed in dark clothes, after officers surrounded him and his rental Ryder van several blocks from the site of the incident.

Saudi security forces shoot down toy drone in Riyadh

By KAREEM FAHIM
AND LOVEDAY MORRIS
The Washington Post

ISTANBUL — After residents in Saudi Arabia's capital reported hearing rare bursts of gunfire Saturday evening, followed by videos of heavy shooting that circulated on the internet, the Saudi government said it had an explanation: Someone had flown a recreational drone, without au-

thorization, and security forces had shot it down.

A government statement said guards at a checkpoint in Riyadh, the capital, observed the drone shortly before 8 p.m. in the Al-Khizama neighborhood, where a palace belonging to King Salman, the Saudi monarch, is located. The security forces "dealt with it according to their orders," the statement said.

"It was a small, remote-con-

trolled toy airplane that came into restricted airspace and was immediately shot down," said a Saudi official who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the news media.

Saudi security forces have been on high alert because of frequent attacks coming from Yemen, where a Saudi-led coalition is participating in that country's civil war.

A Yemeni rebel group has fired

dozens of ballistic missiles at Saudi cities and towns over the past few years, including toward Riyadh. In March, missile fragments plunged into a house in Riyadh and killed an Egyptian construction worker.

The Yemeni rebels, known as the Houthis, have also claimed to have carried out armed drone attacks on the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen, as well as on Saudi territory.

In videos purportedly recorded in Riyadh on Saturday that were shared on social media, the sounds of heavy barrages of gunfire could be heard.

The authenticity of the videos could not be independently confirmed.

A Saudi official told the Reuters news agency that King Salman was not in his palace when the shooting took place.

Mummified body found in Iran could be father of last shah

By JON GAMBRELL
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — A mummified body discovered near the site of a former royal mausoleum in Iran may be the remains of the late Reza Shah Pahlavi, the founder of the Pahlavi dynasty and the father of the country's last shah.

The recent find of the gauze-wrapped body — and the speculation it triggered — puts new hurdles in the way of the Islamic Republic's efforts to fully erase the country's dynastic past, which includes the jack-hammered destruction of the autocrat's tomb immediately after the 1979 revolution.

Yet, as disaffection and economic problems grow ahead of the Islamic Revolution's 40th anniver-



Pahlavi

Prince Reza Pahlavi, already tweeted about it as forensic experts in Iran try to determine whose body they found.

Construction workers discovered the mummified remains while working at the Shiite shrine of Abdul Azim, whose minarets once rose behind Reza Shah's own mausoleum. A digger pulling away dirt and debris uncovered

the body, according to the semi-official ISNA news agency.

Pictures of the body, as well as construction workers posing with it, quickly ricocheted across social media in Iran.

A spokesman for the shrine dismissed the idea of a mummy being found there. However, Hassan Khalilabadi, the head of Tehran City Council's cultural heritage and tourism committee, was quoted by the state-run IRNA news agency on Monday as saying it's "possible" the mummy is the body of Reza Shah.

Authorities say they'll need to conduct DNA tests to confirm whose body it is.

State television has yet to report on the find, likely due to complications that mentioning the Pahlavis can entail.

State media typically refer to the

Persian dynasties, including the Pahlavis, as "despotic," focusing on the abuses of the monarchy's feared SAVAK intelligence agency and their once-javish lifestyles. Reza Shah's own rise gave birth to modern Iran itself, then still called Persia until he ordered foreign diplomats to cease using the name. He came to power in 1925, ruling as an absolute autocrat who used taxes and the country's burgeoning oil revenues to rapidly modernize the nation.

Iran's strong trade ties with Germany, Reza Shah's push for neutrality amid the coming of World War II and Western fears over its oil supplies failed to protect the Nazis ultimately sparked a Russian-British invasion of the country in 1941. Reza Shah abdicated in favor of his son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, at the insistence of

the occupying British forces.

Reza Shah ended up in South Africa, dying there in 1944. His body was taken to Cairo, mummified and held for years before returning to Iran. A grand mausoleum near Tehran held his body for years.

After 1979, however, Islamists viewed the mausoleum as an affront.

Iranian cleric Ayatollah Sadegh Khalkhali, who ordered the executions of hundreds after the revolution, led a mob of supporters who used sledgehammers, jack hammers and other tools to demolish the mausoleum.

Khalkhali later would write in his memoirs that he believed the shah's family took Reza Shah's body when they fled the country. The shah's family, however, maintained the body remained in Iran.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Spray-painted tortoise cleaned up, healing

FL MONTVERDE — The spray-painted Florida tortoise who became an Internet sensation last week is back to its normal color.

The tortoise was completely covered in red spray paint and the animal's limbs were covered in concrete. The people who found the tortoise took it to an animal rehabilitation facility. The director said he's sleeping soundly and curious about his new environment.

Tortoises are cold-blooded animals that use their shells to control their body temperatures. The Orlando Sentinel reported a layer of paint can severely obstruct that ability.

Strip club agrees to replace racy billboard

CT TOLLAND—The owner of a Connecticut adult entertainment club has agreed to replace a risqué billboard along an interstate highway.

The Journal Inquirer of Manchester first reported on the billboard for the Electric Blue Cafe in Tolland which features two scantily clad dancers.

Tolland Town Manager Steven Werbner said several residents and commuters complained about the bill board on Interstate 84.

Werbner said he's aware of the club's First Amendment rights and knew he probably could not force the club to take down the billboard so he wrote owner Ken Denning, asking him to change it voluntarily. Denning agreed.

Police: Drugged snacks at schools sickened 6

MD SPRINGDALE — Maryland police said six students at two high schools reported feeling sick after eating spiked brownies last week.

News outlets reported one of the students at the Charles H. Peppers High School was hospitalized and three others were assessed after eating brownies that may have contained synthetic marijuana. Prince George's County Police are investigating this incident, which happened on Friday.

WTOP reported that two days earlier, a 15-year-old Maryland girl was charged with selling brownies that may have contained THC/CBG, a component of marijuana.

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office said those brownies caused two students at Great Mills High School to be hospitalized.

Authorities seek nude beachgoer over assault

OR PORTLAND — Oregon State Police are investigating after a man told law enforcement officials he was held down and punched several times by a nude man upset that the reputed victim's dog was not on a leash at a clothing-optical beach.

Oregon State Police announced on Sunday they are asking for the public's help in identifying the

THE CENSUS

\$42.5K

The amount fetched at auction by a rare vintage poster for a 1955 Elvis Presley show in North Carolina. The News & Observer of Raleigh reported the poster for a show on May 19, 1955, in Raleigh sold for \$42,500. Giles Moon, of Texas-based Heritage Auctions, said he had expected the poster to sell for about \$20,000, and that both the buyer and the seller prefer to remain anonymous.



JAKE MAY, THE FLINT (MICH.) JOURNAL-MLIVE.COM/AP

Moonlight moves

Swartz Creek High School seniors and friends Josh Smith, left, and Alivia Smith dance Saturday at the school's prom, which had a "By the Light of the Moon" theme, at D'Mar Banquet and Conference Center in Owosso, Mich.

suspect. The incident took place Thursday at Collins Beach, a privately owned nude beach near the Sautie Island Wildlife Area.

Police said the incident resulted in "visible injury" for the victim, who was not identified.

Police said they believe the suspect is a regular at the beach and reportedly has accosted others about dogs not on their leashes.

Police: Man punched girl, knocking her out

FL ST. PETERSBURG — Authorities said a man walked into a Florida gas station and punched a 13-year-old stranger unconscious.

Hillsborough County sheriff's officials said the girl was inside a convenience store Saturday afternoon while her parents pumped gas outside. They alleged that Kolbe Smith walked into the store and punched the girl in the face, causing her to fall to the ground. Authorities said Smith was not provoked and didn't know the girl.

Several citizens stood outside the store and detained Smith until deputies arrived. Authorities said Smith, 27, repeatedly resisted arrest so they deployed a Taser. They said he later admitted he was on LSD.

Intentional collision, carjacking probed

DE BEAR — Delaware State Police are investigating a carjacking set up by an intentional motor vehicle crash.

Authorities said the incident happened the night of April 18 on state Route 71 in Bear when a woman's car was rammed from behind by another vehicle.

After both drivers pulled over and got out of their cars, the suspect entered the woman's car and drove off. A second suspect, who was a passenger in the striking vehicle, then moved to the driver's seat and drove off in that car.

Police said intentional crashes are usually related to insurance fraud but also can involve vehicle theft.

Squirrel wins Berkeley student senate seat

CA BERKELEY — The University of California, Berkeley has elected a squirrel to its student senate.

The Sacramento Bee reported "Furry Boi" was named on April 13 to the Associated Students of the University of California Senate.

The squirrel initially took the

form of a critter living among campus trees, running on platforms such as easier acorn access. But the man behind the campaign, sophomore Stephen Boyle, posted his real intentions and policy platforms Monday to Facebook.

Boyle, who at times wore a squirrel costume, said he is focused on issues such as environmentalism, disabilities and mental illness.

Man gets 50 years for \$1.2M theft of fajitas

TX BROWNSVILLE — A Texas man has been sentenced to 50 years in prison for stealing \$1.2 million worth of fajitas over nine years.

Gilberto Escamilla, 53, was sentenced Friday after pleading guilty to theft by a public servant.

Escamilla had been intercepting fajitas that he ordered through the Cameron County juvenile center where he worked and delivering them to his own customers.

His scam was uncovered when he missed work for a medical appointment and an 800-pound fajita delivery arrived at the center, which doesn't serve fajitas. Escamilla was fired in August and was arrested after authori-

ties checked vendor invoices and obtained a search warrant that uncovered county-funded fajitas in his refrigerator.

Man jailed in sale of stolen black rhino horn

LA LAKE CHARLES — A Louisiana man was sentenced to six months in prison for selling a stolen black rhinoceros horn to undercover federal agents, according to court records.

U.S. District Judge Donald Walter also sentenced Patrick Dylan Drawl, 31, of Lake Charles, to one year of supervised release after his prison term ends.

Drawl pleaded guilty in December to violating the federal Lacey Act, a charge that carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

The head of McNeese State University's biology department contacted campus police in March 2017 to report that a horn had been stolen from a mounted black rhinoceros head on display in the department's Lake Charles building, a court filing says.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agents later found a black rhinoceros horn for sale on a website and traced it to Drawl.

From wire reports

FACES



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC/AP

Antonio Banderas plays Pablo Picasso in the second season of National Geographic's "Genius." To prepare for the artist role, Banderas said, "I wanted to be familiar with all the tools, brushes and oils and acrylics and everything. I bought canvases and starting painting."

Banderas plays Picasso, a complex hometown hero, on cable drama series

By LYNN ELBER
Associated Press

Antonio Banderas, who shares his birthplace with Pablo Picasso, decided it finally was time to portray his hometown hero. But he leaves it to viewers of National Geographic's drama series "Genius: Picasso" to reconcile the artist's revelatory work with his treatment of the women who helped inspire it.

The actor had passed on two other chances to play Picasso, intimidated by the prospect of playing the man he calls a "huge figure" from their shared birthplace of Malaga, Spain. Learning more about the titan of 20th-century painting, who died in 1973 at age 91, made the mature Banderas cautious for other reasons.

"I started realizing he was not just complicated but mysterious, because of what he did as an artist and because of his life. There were so many opinions of him, some of them good and some bad, his behavior with art and with women and his friends," Banderas said.

But he was impressed by the first season of "Genius" from executive producers Ron Howard and Brian Grazer, with Geoffrey Rush playing Albert Einstein, and decided this was the time to take Picasso's complex story and paintbrushes in hand, literally.

"I wanted to be familiar with all the tools,

brushes and oils and acrylics and everything. I bought canvases and starting painting" to prepare for the role, he said, although he counts himself only a dedicated novice.

Howard said he had no reservations that Banderas the actor, if not painter, was up to the task in the 10-part series that debuted Tuesday. "It took us a while to settle on Picasso as the next 'Genius,' but once we did, Antonio's name was immediately thrown into the mix, and everyone agreed he would be perfect for the role," Howard said. "He put in an incredible amount of work to bring the artist to life on-screen and I think he has delivered an exceptional performance that we're all very proud of."

A convincingly prosthetics-aged Banderas plays Picasso in his later years, with Alex Rich as the youthful artist. Those co-starring as Picasso's lovers and muses are Samantha Colley as photographer Dora Maar; Poppy Delevingne as Marie-Therese Walter; and Clemence Poesy as the artist Françoise Gilot, now 96, who left him after a decade and two children.

It was Gilot who, in her 1964 memoir, quoted Picasso as saying, "For me, there are only two kinds of women — goddesses and doormats." A Paris Review column about a 2017 exhibition of Picasso artwork and memorabilia related to his daughter Maya (born to mistress Walter during his marriage to first wife Olga Khokhlova) was headlined: How Picasso Bleed

the Women in His Life for Art.

Picasso married second wife Jacqueline Roque when he was 79 and she was 27, and they remained together until his death, with Roque his inspiration for that prolific final period. Banderas said that much of Picasso's work was deeply intertwined with the women who shared his life.

"When he was upset with Dora Maar, for example, you could tell how he painted her. He kind of made her a monster," he said. "Without those women around him, the pieces of Picasso, so it would be a completely different story."

The artist's colleagues had reason to be wary of his brilliance: They would hide their own works from him because they knew he could improve on whatever style he saw, Banderas said. There is also a cloudy chapter in which Picasso refuses to sign a petition to save French poet Max Jacob (played by T.R. Knight) from a Nazi internment camp, claiming it would hurt his close friend's cause. Jacob died in the camp in 1944.

How an artist's conduct influences the perception of his art, or its acceptance, has particular currency, with the careers of some top creative lights marred or sullied by a range of alleged sexual misconduct. In Picasso's case, women were willing partners and research uncovered no evidence of physical abuse, said Banderas.



Dwayne Johnson

Dwayne Johnson a father again

Dwayne Johnson took to Instagram on Monday to show off his chest full of tattoos and his new baby girl in a hospital skin-to-skin contact moment.

"Blessed and proud to bring another strong girl into this world," he wrote. "Tiana Gia Johnson came into this world like a force of nature and Mama @laurenhashianofficial labored and delivered like a true rockstar."

It's the second child and second girl with Lauren Hashian. The actor also has a 16-year-old daughter with former wife Dany Garcia.

"I was raised and surrounded by strong, loving women all my life, but after participating in baby Tiana's delivery, it's hard to express the new level of love, respect and admiration I have for @laurenhashianofficial and all mamas and women out there," Johnson wrote.

He urged all dads to participate in the births of their children, offering support during labor and delivery. And he made a promise to his new baby girl, "you have my word, I'll love, protect, guide and make you laugh for the rest of my life. Your crazy dad has many responsibilities ... but being your dad will always be the one I'm most proud to wear."

Other news

■ Next year's Oscars season has been set, with several events leading up to the broadcast of the 91st Academy Awards on Feb. 24, 2019. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced key dates during the season Monday, including the handing out of its honorary Oscars, the Governors Awards, on Nov. 18. Nominations will be announced Jan. 22, and scientific and technical awards will be bestowed Feb. 9.

■ ABC News says Amy Robach will be David Wilkos' new co-anchor on the "20/20" newsmagazine line. Robach has reported for the newsmagazine and is best known at ABC for her work on "Good Morning America." ABC News President James Goldston said Monday that Robach will continue to report for the morning show.

■ Kym Johnson and Robert Herjavec have something to dance about. The former "Dancing with the Stars" partners have welcomed twins into the world. Johnson posted on Instagram photos of the newborns, who were born Monday morning.

■ TV talk show host Steve Wilkos will have a drunken-driving charge erased from his record if he completes Connecticut's alcohol education program. The Advocate reports Wilkos was granted admission into the diversionary program Monday during a hearing in Stamford Superior Court.

From wire reports

Kevin Smith speaks out after his heart attack: 'Now I feel great'

By RACHEL DeSANTIS
New York Daily News



NBC

Kevin Smith said on "Today" on Monday that he's doing better than ever and he's lost 32 pounds.

It's been two months since a massive heart attack nearly killed Kevin Smith, but the filmmaker is doing better than ever — and says the health scare was the best thing that ever happened to him.

Smith, 47, stopped by the "Today" show Monday to flaunt a 32-pound weight loss and a new outlook on life after making a full recovery from what doctors deem "the widemaker," or a 100 percent blockage of the left anterior descending artery.

"I feel great. Honestly, the heart attack was the best thing that ever happened to me. And it makes sense because I had 100 percent blockage in the LAD ... and so once the doctor opened it up ..." Smith explained. "The moment he (opened the stent) I felt instantly better. And it made sense because none of the blood was going through there for who knows how long. So I wasn't getting proper oxygen and stuff. So now I feel great, man, it was fantastic."

The "Clerks" filmmaker was rushed to the hospital Feb. 25 in between sets at a Los Angeles comedy festival. He later told

fans that if he hadn't canceled his second show to make the trip, he would have died that night.

Smith told the "Today" show hosts that he's well on his way to his goal of shedding 50 pounds thanks to the help of Weight Watchers and magician Penn Jillette's book, which credits his own 100-pound weight loss to an all-potato diet.

"I think I'm going to keep going. Because now, this is the weight I was when I met my wife (Jennifer)," he said of his weight loss. "This is a good weight to be at. Last time I weighed this little, I scored big time."

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Facebook spells out community standards

By BARBARA ORTUTAY
Associated Press

NEW YORK — If you've ever wondered exactly what sorts of things Facebook would like you not to do on its service, you're in luck. For the first time, the social network is publishing detailed guidelines to what does and doesn't belong on its service — 27 pages of them.

So please don't make credible violent threats or revel in sexual violence; promote terrorism or the poaching of endangered species; attempt to buy marijuana, sell firearms, or list prescription drug prices for sale; post instructions for self-injury; depict minors in a sexual context; or commit multiple homicides at different times or locations.

Facebook already banned most of these actions on its previous "community standards" page, which sketched out the company's standards in broad strokes. On Tuesday it will spell out the sometimes gory details.

The updated community standards will mirror the rules its 7,600 moderators use to review questionable posts, then decide if they should be pulled off Facebook — and, sometimes, whether to call in the authorities.

The standards aren't changing, but the details reveal some interesting tidbits. Photos of breasts are OK in some cases — such as breastfeeding or in a painting — but not in others. The document details what counts as sexual exploitation of adults or minors, but leaves room to ban more forms of abuse should it arise.

Since Facebook doesn't allow

Facebook does not allow anyone who has committed two or more murders over "multiple incidents or locations." But you're not banned if you've committed only a single homicide.

serial murderers on its service, its new standards even define the term. Anyone who has committed two or more murders over "multiple incidents or locations" qualifies. But you're not banned if you've committed only a single homicide. It could have been self-defense, after all.

Reading through the guidelines gives you an idea of how difficult the jobs of Facebook moderators must be. These are people who have to read and watch objectionable material of every stripe and then make hard calls — deciding, for instance, if a video promotes eating disorders or merely seeks to help people. Or what crosses the line from joke to harassment, from theoretical musings to direct threats, and so on.

Moderators work in 40 languages. Facebook's goal is to respond to reports of questionable content within 24 hours. But the company says it doesn't impose quotas or time limits on the reviewers.

The company has made some high-profile mistakes over the years. For instance, human rights groups say Facebook has mount-



RICHARD DREW/AP

Facebook is releasing detailed guidelines for determining what it will and won't allow on its service.

ed an inadequate response to hate speech and the incitement of violence against Muslim minorities in Myanmar.

Monica Bickert, Facebook's head of product policy and counterterrorism, said the detailed public guidelines have been a long time in the works. "I have been at this job five years and I wanted to do this that whole time," she said.

Bickert said Facebook's recent privacy travails, which forced CEO Mark Zuckerberg to testify for 10 hours before Congress, didn't prompt their release now.

The policy is an evolving document, and Bickert said updates go out to the content reviewers every week. Facebook hopes it will give people clarity if posts or videos they report aren't taken down.

Bickert said one challenge is having the same document guide vastly different "community standards" around the world. What passes as acceptable nudity in Norway may not pass in Uganda or the U.S.

There are more universal gray areas, too. For instance, what exactly counts as political protest? How can you know that the person in a photo agreed to have it posted on Facebook?

That latter question is the main reason for Facebook's nudity ban, Bickert said, since it's "hard to determine consent and age." Even if the person agreed to be taped or photographed, they may not have agreed to have their naked image posted on social media.

Facebook uses a combination of the human reviewers and artificial intelligence to weed out content that violates its policies. But its AI tools aren't close to the point where they could pinpoint subtle differences in context and history — not to mention shadings such as humor and satire — that would let them make judgments as accurate as those of humans.

And of course, humans make plenty of mistakes themselves.

MARKET WATCH

April 23, 2018

Dow Jones Industrials	-14.25
	24,448.69
Nasdaq composite	-17.52
	7,128.60
Standard & Poor's 500	0.15
	2,670.29
Russell 2000	-2.00
	1,562.12

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (April 25)	\$1.2530
Dollar buys (April 25)	69.7981
British pound (April 25)	\$1.43
Japanese yen (April 25)	105.20
South Korean won (April 25)	1,048.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.3970
Canada (Dollar)	1.2827
China (Yuan)	6.3091
Denmark (Krone)	6.8088
Egypt (Pound)	17.6913
Euro	\$1.2229/0.8177
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8462
Hungary (Forint)	255.43
Israel (Shekel)	3.5594
Japan (Yen)	109.10
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3006
Norway (Krone)	7.8995
Philippines (Peso)	52.19
Poland (Zloty)	3.44
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7510
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3231
South Korea (Won)	1,077.18
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9788
Thailand (Baht)	31.488
Turkey (Lira)	0.1847

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance. For Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, for nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.75
Discount rate	2.25
Federate rate	69
3-month bill	1.83
30-year bond	3.14

WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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OPINION

Laws need to get a grip on gig work

By KATHY KRISTOF
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Former Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson recently predicted that by 2020, half of Americans will be self-employed. While this estimate includes freelancers, small-business owners and independent contractors, one big reason for the explosive growth in nonemployer work is the gig economy.

Driving for Uber or Lyft, delivering groceries for Instacart and finding handyman jobs through TaskRabbit may be among the best-known gigs, but there are now hundreds, possibly thousands, of such platforms being used by millions of American workers on a part- or full-time basis.

This on-demand economy offers real upsides for people who want or need flexible work, but its growth is outrunning every system our country has in place to protect workers. The protections that help protect generations — from unions to minimum wage — may not provide the right answers either.

As a consumer reporter, I became interested in the gig economy while writing about it for various news outlets. I was a freelancer myself and loved the concept, mainly for its promise of flexibility. But as I looked into these job arrangements — and I've now examined more than 175 platforms in depth — I was troubled by how little I could find out about each. How much work could you get? How much could you earn per hour or per week? Could you really make a living cobbling together gigs?

In theory, every gig worker is his or her own boss. You see the bold-print claims in

ads or on the platform websites: Work when you want, how you want, where you want. Get paid to take gigs in your spare time. Many suggest wages ranging between \$25 and \$50 per hour. Dig in, however, and you learn these claims are optimistic, if not complete fabrications.

Meanwhile, many of these supposedly flexible companies make plenty of rigid demands. They dictate that workers wear particular clothes, report their location on apps, commit to set blocks of time and be paid or pay a penalty.

Indeed, some platforms make so many demands that workers asserted they are not independent contractors at all. That has resulted in lawsuits against Uber, GrubHub, Postmates and others. So far, settlements have mostly preserved the worker-as-an-independent-contractor concept that obviates any wage guarantees.

Granted, self-employment outside of gig platforms doesn't offer guaranteed pay either. If I don't write, I don't get paid. But no one tells me where to work, when to work or how to work. Nor do they threaten to penalize me if I turn down an assignment that pays too little or requires too much time. Those things happen to gig workers all the time.

Worse, when workers are booted from some platforms — the ultimate penalty — they can lose their accumulated wages. The terms and conditions that disclose these unpleasant possibilities often are so well-hidden that the average person would have no way of finding them.

Imposing minimum wage laws on gig platforms doesn't seem like an ideal remedy. That would likely lead to restricting

worker hours, reducing the very flexibility that appeals to most gig workers. (This is ultimately what happened at San Francisco food-delivery service Sprig before it shut down last year.) But some protections are needed. At minimum, gig workers should be able to report and halt the type of wage theft that some platforms appear to engage in regularly.

Moreover, platforms should be required to be forthright about how they pay workers and the rules that workers bear witness signed onto the platform. Little do delivery drivers know, for instance, that their auto insurance policy may be invalid when using a car for commercial purposes. If they're in an accident, they could lose an asset worth thousands of dollars in pursuit of a \$5 tip.

Appropriate protections could require only slight changes to current federal laws. After all, we require truth in advertising everywhere else — why not here? Federal law also bars wage theft. Shouldn't those rules apply to independent contractors?

But such an important and fast-growing segment of the economy ultimately may need its own carefully constructed rule book. According to the annual "Freelancing in America" report commissioned by the Freelancers Union and Upwork, the independent workforce is growing at three times the rate of the U.S. workforce as a whole. Some 57 million workers did some kind of freelance work in 2017. The trick will be to create rules that foster fair play without trampling the entrepreneurial spirit that's fueling this dynamic industry.

Kathy Kristof is an award-winning journalist and author of SideHustl.com.

No spotlight on local farmworkers at Coachella

By GUSTAVO ARELLANO
Special to the Los Angeles Times

I went to the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in Indio, Calif., in 2003, and that was enough. The reunion of Iggy Pop and the Stooges was awesome, of course, and Cafe Tacuba played like rock en español gods. Otherwise, my memories of the performances are vague, and not because of any drugs or heatstroke.

What is lodged in my memory, instead, is the drive home. I was with my friend Carolina Sarmiento, who's now a professor of urban planning at the University of Wisconsin. As we navigated the winding mountain passes of the 60 Freeway just west of Beaumont, all we could talk about was the disparity between the hipster town we had just experienced and the wrenching poverty just south of the festival, in towns like Mecca, Thermal and the city of Coachella.

"Do you think that the people who went to the concert know about the farmworkers all around them?" Carolina asked.

"I hope," I replied. And I'm sure they still don't.

Goldenvoice, the subsidiary of AEG Live that created and runs Coachella, has created a wildfire mint with its festival. Last year, daily attendance averaged 125,000 (it was just 30,000 when I went) and it notched \$114 million in gross revenue. The Coachella Valley Economic Partnership and Greater Palm Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau estimated that just in 2016, the economic impact of Goldenvoice events (they also run the Stagecoach and Desert Trip shindigs) was \$704 million.

All wonderful and cool, right? Nope. Despite all the attention that concertgoers, music acts and promoters have brought to the Coachella Valley, none of it has im-

proved the lives of the Latinos who make the region run the rest of the year.

I was reminded of that after reading two remarkable stories published just before Weekend One of the festival. For a Longreads piece, "Coachella Underground," reporter Gabriel Thompson tracked the lives of undocumented immigrants who remain invisible to concertgoers. He describes the valley as "a land of impossible extremes, a place that doesn't make sense but exists nonetheless, a testament to hubris and hard work and irrigation canals, and also to racism." In their multimedia piece, "In the Valley of Coachella," novelist Lisa Streifel and photographer Douglas McCulloch used ESRI's digital geography platform to put the people who work and live year-round literally on the map.

In the world these articles reflect — that is to say, reality — 39 percent of the population in the Eastern Coachella Valley lives in poverty, nearly double the state rate. In the Coachella Valley Unified School District, 99 percent of students are Latino. Residents live in substandard housing and work under a brutal sun to fuel a multimillion-dollar agricultural industry powered by dates and melons. They're terrified of the Trump administration but bridle on with life.

For these families, the bounty of the festival is essentially nonexistent. It's cliché to compare it to a parasite in the parts, but how better to describe something so close yet so far?

These curtain-pulling works of journalism should go viral; instead, Thompson got 18 likes off Longreads' Facebook page, while Straight's tale doubled that amount on ESRI's page.

Then again, it's fitting that articles so important flopped like a fish on the banks of the Salton Sea. To paraphrase "The

Man Who Shot Liberty Bells": This is the West. When the legend isn't fact, buy a \$429 festival pass.

The Coachella class just can't get bothered with the details of the hard times that surround them. Oh, Goldenvoice suggests it cares. Its website lists the local charities it donates to, like the Coachella Valley History Museum and the Mizell Senior Center in Palm Springs. And it has given more than 1,000 festival tickets to local high school students since 2011.

Those token efforts remind me of what Disneyland used to do: Give away free food to students in Anaheim like me so we wouldn't ask why its massive profits never trickled down to the raza rabble.

Don't paint me as a spoilsport or socialist, por favor. I would have loved to see cumbia legends Los Angeles Azules play Coachella's main stage this year. And Goldenvoice has no obligation to reform the inequitable economy of the desert.

But the next time you're driving out to Indio, dressed for Snapchat and ready to glamp in one of Goldenvoice's \$3,600 VIP tepees for two — or even if you aren't — take a moment to gaze at the official festival poster. You'll find the very fields of the Empire Polo Club anchoring the bottom of the page, palm trees and the San Jacinto Mountains marking the horizon, a massive sky in the golden hues of sunset featuring the latest lineup. The image has become as much a part of Southern California pop art as those 1930s and 1940s orange-car-labeled posters from the very fields of Indio.

Both images are a fusion of fantasy and propaganda. And in both, just out of frame, are exploited Mexicans.

But, hey, Beyonce killed it, so all's good, right?

Gustavo Arellano is editor of OC Weekly, a KCRW commentator and author of the syndicated column iAska a Mexican!

OPINION

Rosenstein has made 2 critical missteps

By HARRY LITMAN

Special To The Washington Post

In recent weeks, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein has capitulated to political pressure from the president and his allies in Congress. He has yielded to demands from the most rabid opponents of special counsel Robert Mueller's probe in a way that harms the long-term interests of the Justice Department and likely does little to protect the probe or Rosenstein's own job.

To be fair to Rosenstein, he is under enormous, improper pressure from his ultimate boss, the president of the United States, as well as a venomous group of congressional Republicans, led by Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Calif. And he had previously safeguarded Mueller's ability to complete his mission, resisting political pressure from the White House.

But now he has made two critical missteps. First, he permitted Nunes and Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., leaders on the House Intelligence Committee, to review the two-page memo that activated the FBI's ongoing counterintelligence investigation of contacts between Russia and the Trump campaign. It is extremely rare for the department to share a memo on the opening of a investigation when that investigation is still active. The Justice Department had resisted Nunes' demand, which President Donald Trump had endorsed on Twitter.

Second, and even more worrisome, Rosenstein on Thursday agreed to release to Nunes and company former FBI Director James Comey's memos of his conversations with Trump about the two-page memo. Comey's notes are also documents pertaining to an active investigation. As expected, within minutes the Comey memos were then leaked to the public.

While requests from Congress are always subject to some ad hoc back-and-forth, it is about as hard and fast a rule as there is that the Justice Department



ALEX BRANDON/AP

Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein departs the Supreme Court on Monday with his family after arguing his first case before the court.

will not hand over documents relating to a still-active investigation. And for good reason: It could compromise the investigation, unfairly expose uncharged individuals and provide a road map for defendants to sculpt their stories. It is precisely that the practice is inflexible and long-established that provides department officials the wherewithal to resist the often urgent saber-rattling calls from the Hill to provide documents in pending investigations. Rosenstein departed from the policy for frankly political reasons. The House Intelligence Committee threatened to hold him in contempt, with the acrid prospect that the move would lay the groundwork for Trump to dismiss him and install a Trump ally atop the Mueller probe.

This capitulation alters the balance of power between the Justice Department and the Hill and makes it substantially more difficult for department officials to resist future congressional interference in active, politically charged investigations. It may also be that Rosenstein acted to protect the probe based on considerations that we don't know about. Even so, it's a miserable day at the Justice Department when the deputy attorney general is forced at gunpoint to turn over important evidence in a pending criminal investigation.

What made the decision especially perverse is that Rosenstein knew that his antagonists aimed to use the material to discredit the Mueller probe in particular and further their zealous attack on the Jus-

tice Department and federal law enforcement generally. Sure enough, the Comey memos leaked almost instantly, and Trump and his supporters have incorrectly trumpeted that they exonerated Trump of obstruction of justice.

Rosenstein's tenure is a testimonial to the perils of trying to play ball with the president and his congressional allies. He began his time in office being manipulated into supplying at the president's demand a memo arguing for Comey's firing that the president used, falsely, to justify the action. He wound up looking like a stooge. Having been burned, Rosenstein thereafter put his head down and set his sail by Justice Department practices and culture. Starting with the splendid selection of Mueller, he quickly became a stand-up Justice Department loyalist.

The more recent decisions appear to be a reversion toward succumbing to political pressure from the White House and Congress. The problem isn't simply that these errors depart from principle. It is also that they are very risky on their own terms. The record of those who seek to curry favor with the president is dismal. Trump seems to take special relish in belittling former antagonists who have stooped to kiss his hem — just ask Chris Christie, Mitt Romney or Jeff Sessions. Trump has already laid the groundwork for Rosenstein's discharge, alleging that he is the “most conflicted of all” the players in the Mueller probe. And indeed, news reports from last week quote a source close to Trump as saying the president hasn't “cooled off” on Rosenstein, and that Rosenstein may be “about to be spit-roasted.” He would not be the first victim, but he would be the most consequential, of the president's endless spite and viciousness.

Harry Litman teaches constitutional law at the University of California at San Diego. He served as deputy assistant attorney general in the Justice Department from 1998 and as an attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania from 1998 to 2001.

Red America, blue America rightly depend on each other

By CHARLES LANE

The Washington Post

The red-blue, rural-urban dichotomy has solidified into a basic fact of American politics. The Democrats are now the party of diverse, urban areas, which also constitute the nation's hubs of cutting-edge financial, technological, medical and entertainment activity. The Republicans, meanwhile, dominate “flyover country,” the ranches, farms and hamlets between the California coast and the Northeast corridor.

This increasingly sharp partisan divide corresponds to a divide between the most and least economically weighty locations in the United States, as measured by share of gross domestic product. In 2016, Hillary Clinton carried nearly 500 counties that generated 64 percent of GDP in 2015. Donald Trump won about 2,600 counties that produced just 36 percent of output.

Republicans used to argue about the alleged unfair dependence of “takers” on “makers,” but the 64-36 urban-rural GDP split, first reported by the Brookings Institution's Mark Muro and Sifan Liu, let the 2016 Democratic standard-bearer flip that script.

“I won the places that represent two-thirds of America's gross domestic product,” Clinton told an audience in Mumbai, India, last month. “So I won the places that

are optimistic, diverse, dynamic, moving forward. And [Trump's] whole campaign, ‘Make America Great Again,’ was looking backwards.”

Unstated, but clear, was the implication that Trump had not won with the presidency with fewer votes from actual citizens, as opposed to presidential electors, but also that the Electoral College magnified the voting power of people who, on the whole, contribute less to the country than Clinton's voters do.

Before other Democrats commit themselves to this line of analysis, they might want to consider an important fact about urban areas: They consume far more food and energy than they produce. And guess where food and energy come from.

“The U.S. relies extensively on its non-urban regions to provide massive amounts of food and energy to sustain its growing urban centers, and to a degree that sets food and energy apart from other sectors of the economy,” Michael Cembalest, chairman of market and investment strategy at J.P. Morgan, writes in his latest annual survey of the energy economy. “They provide the life blood to cities for their survival.”

Each resident of the United States has an “ecological footprint” of about 20 acres, according to the Oakland, Calif.-based nonprofit Global Footprint Network, meaning that it takes the natural resources produced on that much space to support each

person.

Yet that land is almost entirely within the United States' borders, since approximately 80 percent of food, refined-oil products and electricity are domestically produced, not imported. If this were not the case, “the U.S. would be highly reliant on geopolitically insecure and costlier imports,” Cembalest notes.

Trump counties may produce only 36 percent of GDP, but in a sense it's the right 36 percent — the 36 percent without which those dynamic, productive cities could not exist.

Of the top 15 food- and energy-producing states, Clinton carried only five in 2016: California, Illinois, New Mexico, Minnesota and Colorado.

Cembalest calculates that if Electoral College votes were allocated according to food and energy production as well as population, Texas would have 81 electoral votes instead of its current 38, North Dakota would go up from three to 14 — and New York would shrink from 29 to 19.

No one would or should say that flyover country is actually underrepresented in the Electoral College, but Cembalest's little thought experiment does remind us that the Constitution, by design, protects interests that might not fare so well under a more majoritarian system.

Notoriously, Iowa punches well above its weight in national politics, due to its first-

in-the-nation presidential caucuses and two seats in the Senate, another institution that disproportionately favors rural America. We have a wasteful ethanol subsidy for Iowa's corn farmers as a result.

On the other hand, we probably wouldn't want a political system that actually empowered a handful of urban enclaves to exploit the hinterland.

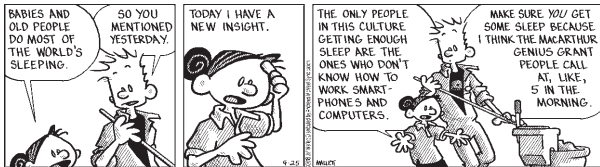
Trump rode flyover country's grievances against big-city elites to the presidency. Clinton's remarks, and similar ones from other progressive types, imply that Democrats are entitled to respond in kind, apparently because they are the real “makers.”

The truth is that the United States' regions are interdependent, and that interdependence is a good thing. “It's very appropriate to note that red, heartland places generate important agricultural, energy and manufacturing outputs just as blue, urban ones produce high-value technology, services, human capital and ideas,” Brookings' Muro told me.

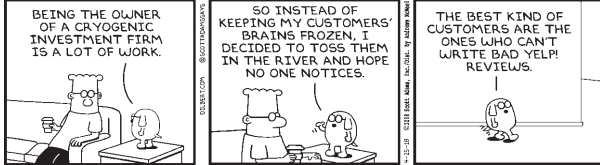
One of the Constitution's many purposes, in fact, was to facilitate economic interdependence among a diverse population spread across a giant continent. For more than two centuries, the benefits of those constitutional arrangements have generally outweighed the costs. That's cause for appreciation, not resentment.

Charles Lane is a member of The Washington Post's editorial board.

Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



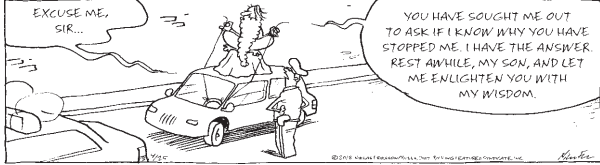
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



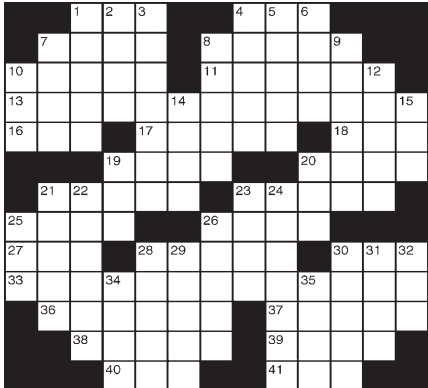
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



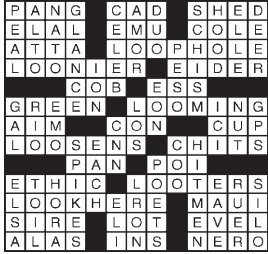
ACROSS

- 1 Opening
- 4 "Humbug!"
- 7 Dam
- 8 Poison —
- 10 Positive, as an attitude
- 11 Antidepressant brand
- 13 Fruity toast spread
- 16 Mineral suffix
- 17 Obliterate
- 18 Mouths (Lat.)
- 19 Russian ruler
- 20 TV's Trebek
- 21 Tic
- 23 Find a new tenant for
- 25 Feng —
- 26 Gestation location

DOWN

- 1 Category
- 2 Opera set in Egypt
- 3 Superior skill
- 4 Aaron and Raymond
- 5 Love, Italian-style
- 6 Vague
- 7 Bulb measure
- 8 Asparagus unit
- 9 Wheedle
- 10 Hit CBS series
- 12 Insertion symbol
- 14 "Dracula" author
- 40 Snoop
- 41 "Of course"
- 15 Upper limit
- 19 — chi
- 20 Cleric's tunic
- 21 Wheat bundle
- 22 Pool of rainwater
- 23 Leeway
- 24 Ability to relate
- 25 NBC weekend show
- 26 Not as good
- 28 Slander
- 29 Moth-eaten
- 30 Head lights?
- 31 Mid-month date
- 32 For each
- 34 Canine cry
- 35 Margarita garnish

Answer to Previous Puzzle



4-25

CRYPTOQUIP

JQCVKLD DXCD MFVWP LFHVJ

H P K Q M D X K O D C V W

CYDQLHVCDKVO QZ MYFZD FM


C AYFHU: PUKCWQZA-KPK.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THEY OFFERED THE FELLOW A ROLE WITH ACTRESS DIAZ, HE SAID "ZERO CHANCE. I'M CAMERON-SHY."
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals F

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Announcements 040

SCAM FADS

Classifieds scams can target both sellers and buyers with classifieds advertisements.

Be aware of the common red flags.

Some of the latest Scam fads are:

- Vehicle buyers wanting to buy sight unseen and have the vehicle shipped through an agent using paypal.
- People saying Free Dog (different breeds) for adoption.

Automotive 140

SELLER BEWARE

Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in concluding the sale of their property. Not all potential buyers are reputable or honest. Stars and Stripes suggests that you take precautions to ensure that potential buyers are reputable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale. Stars and Stripes is not liable for the contractual relationship between sellers and buyers of merchandise advertised in the newspaper or on the web site.

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Auto • Quality Pre-owned
US SPEC Vehicles
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Free Europe-wide delivery

Jobs Wanted 640

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SPORTS RECAP

Sports on AFN

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules. myafn.net

College baseball

Collegiate Baseball poll

TUCSON, Ariz. — The Collegiate Baseball poll, which ran through April 22, totals points and previous ranking. Voting is done by coaches, sports writers and sports information directors.

Rank	Team	Points	Previous Ranking
1.	Stanford	295	405
2.	Florida	248	483
3.	N.C. State	231	490
4.	UCFLA	210	487
5.	Oregon State	206	486
6.	North Carolina	213	484
7.	Michigan	241	482
8.	Mississippi	229	480
9.	Duke	311	478
10.	Arkansas	283	476
11.	Florida State	229	475
12.	Vanderbilt	216	472
13.	Arizona	213	471
14.	Clemson	291	467
15.	San Carolina	245	463
16.	St. John's	260	463
17.	OKlahoma State	231	460
18.	North Carolina	213	457
19.	Florida State	216	455
20.	Tennessee Tech	245	453
21.	Auburn	292	451
22.	Texas A&M	295	449
23.	Arizona	291	448
24.	Louisville	263	445
25.	South Carolina	213	442
26.	Minnesota	215	440
27.	Indiana	213	442
28.	FAU	291	436
29.	UC Irvine	243	433
30.	Coastal Carolina	218	430

Monday's scores

CAF (Canada/N.Y. 92) Sciences (Pa.) 7-4
DeSales (N.J.), FDU-Rhineham 1
10 (N.Y.) Cortland 1
Montu Alyous 16, Penn Tech 13
10 (N.Y.) Cortland 1, Cortland 1
Plymouth St. at Keene St., p.p.d.
Rowan 3, Salisbury 1
10 (N.Y.) Cortland 1, Cortland 1
St. Vincent's, Penn St.-Albion 5
W. Connecticut 5, Red Bank 1
Widener 11, Cabrini 5
Western St. 13, Becker 8
WP1, New England Coll. 5
South
Clifford at Bunker, p.p.d.
S. Virginia at Roanoke, p.p.d.

Alma 9-5, New York 2nd game 9 innings
Elmhurst 3, New York 2nd game 9
Union 2-1, Albany 6-1
Macalester 6, Bethel (Minn.) 2
Union (Conn.) 1, Wilmington (Ohio) 7
Muskingum 15, Bethany (W.Va.) 6
North Union (Minn.) 3, Crown St. 1
St. Mary's (Minn.) 3-13, Carleton 1-1
Transylvania at Hanover, p.p.d.
St. John's (Minn.) 7-6, Hamilton 1-0

FAIR WEST
Trinity (Texas) 4, Academy of Art 1
Holy Names 11, Hawaii Pacific 8
UT Rio Grande Valley at Washington 3

Auto racing

Grand Prix of Alabama

IndyCar Series

Barber Motorsports Park

(Post position in parentheses)

- (1) Scott Newarden, United States, 82
- (4) Ryan Hunter-Reed, United States, 82
- (5) James Hinchcliffe, Canada, 82
- (3) Alexander Rossi, Italy, 82
- (3) Sebastian Bourdais, France, 82
- (10) Will Dixon, United States, 82
- (15) Graham Rahal, United States, 82
- (18) Takuma Sato, Japan, 82
- (9) Simon Pagenaud, France, 82
- (7) Marco Andretti, United States, 82
- (11) Josef Newgarden, New Zealand, 82
- (21) Matheus Leist, Brazil, 82
- (14) Zach Vechey, United States, 82
- (15) Jordan King, England, 82
- (17) Spencer Pigot, United States, 81
- (8) Rene Binder, Austria, 82
- (20) Gabby Chaves, Colombia, 82
- (10) Tony Kanaan, Brazil, 82
- (16) Zachary Claman Delmonico, Canada, 82
- (20, 12) Ed Jones, Britain, 64, Mechanical
- (2) Will Power, Australia, 53, Off Course
- (3) Max Chilton, United States, 34, Mechanical
- (17) Charlie Kimball, England, 34, Mechanical
- (10), Contact

Race Statistics

Winner's average speed: 93.335 mph.

Time of Race: 1:00:14.486.

Fastest lap: 1:00:14.486.

Cautions: 2 for 14 laps.

Lead changes: 4 among 2 drivers.

Golf

World rankings

Through April 22

Rank	Player	Points	Previous Ranking
1.	Dustin Johnson	954	964
2.	Justin Thomas	942	964
3.	Jordan Spieth	963	964
4.	Jon Rahm	961	964
5.	Adam Scott	942	964
6.	Felix Fowler	919	964
7.	Patrick McRory	919	964
8.	Hideki Matsuyama	919	964
9.	Hideki Matsuyama	919	964
10.	Hideki Matsuyama	919	964
11.	Hideki Matsuyama	919	964
12.	Hideki Matsuyama	919	964
13.	Hideki Matsuyama	919	964
14.	Hideki Matsuyama	919	964
15.	Hideki Matsuyama	919	964
16.	Hideki Matsuyama	919	964
17.	Hideki Matsuyama	919	964
18.	Hideki Matsuyama	919	964
19.	Hideki Matsuyama	919	964
20.	Hideki Matsuyama	919	964

PGA Tour FedEx Cup leaders

Through April 22

Rank	Player	Points	Previous Ranking
1.	Justin Thomas	1,329	1,377
2.	Patrick Kizzire	1,329	1,377
3.	Bubba Watson	1,276	1,377
4.	Patrick McRory	1,276	1,377
5.	Dustin Johnson	1,276	1,377
6.	Jon Rahm	1,276	1,377
7.	Adam Scott	1,276	1,377
8.	Andrew Landry	1,276	1,377
9.	Tom Finau	1,276	1,377
10.	Paul Casey	1,276	1,377
11.	Brendan Steele	1,276	1,377
12.	Justin Thomas	1,276	1,377
13.	Justin Thomas	1,276	1,377
14.	Justin Thomas	1,276	1,377
15.	Justin Thomas	1,276	1,377
16.	Justin Thomas	1,276	1,377
17.	Justin Thomas	1,276	1,377
18.	Justin Thomas	1,276	1,377
19.	Justin Thomas	1,276	1,377
20.	Justin Thomas	1,276	1,377

Pro soccer

MLS

Eastern Conference

Rank	Team	W	L	T	Pts	Goal Diff
1.	New York City FC	4	2	2	16	9
2.	Atlanta United FC	5	1	1	16	17
3.	Orlando City	4	2	2	14	12
4.	New England	3	3	2	11	9
5.	Columbus	3	3	2	11	9
6.	Chicago	2	3	3	9	8
7.	Orlando City	2	3	3	9	8
8.	D.C. United	1	3	2	5	10
9.	Philadelphia	1	3	2	5	8
10.	Toronto FC	1	3	2	5	8
11.	Portland	1	3	2	5	8
12.	San Jose	1	3	2	5	8
13.	Minnesota United	1	3	2	5	8
14.	San Jose	1	3	2	5	8
15.	Portland	1	3	2	5	8
16.	San Jose	1	3	2	5	8
17.	Portland	1	3	2	5	8
18.	San Jose	1	3	2	5	8
19.	Portland	1	3	2	5	8
20.	San Jose	1	3	2	5	8

Pro soccer

MLS

Western Conference

Through April 22

Rank	Team	W	L	T	Pts	Goal Diff
1.	LA Galaxy	5	1	2	17	10
2.	LA Galaxy	5	1	2	17	10
3.	LA Galaxy	5	1	2	17	10
4.	LA Galaxy	5	1	2	17	10
5.	LA Galaxy	5	1	2	17	10
6.	LA Galaxy	5	1	2	17	10
7.	LA Galaxy	5	1	2	17	10
8.	LA Galaxy	5	1	2	17	10
9.	LA Galaxy	5	1	2	17	10
10.	LA Galaxy	5	1	2	17	10

Pro soccer

MLS

Western Conference

Through April 22

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Rank	Team	W	L	T	Pts	Goal Diff
1.	LA Galaxy	5	1	2	17	10
2.	LA Galaxy	5	1	2	17	10
3.	LA Galaxy	5	1	2	17	10
4.	LA Galaxy	5	1	2	17	10
5.	LA Galaxy	5	1	2	17	10
6.	LA Galaxy	5	1	2	17	10
7.	LA Galaxy	5	1	2	17	10
8.	LA Galaxy	5	1	2	17	10
9.	LA Galaxy	5	1	2	17	10
10.	LA Galaxy	5	1	2	17	10

Pro soccer

MLS

Western Conference

Through April 22

Rank	Team	W	L	T	Pts	Goal Diff
1.	LA Galaxy	5	1	2	17	10
2.	LA Galaxy	5	1	2	17	10
3.	LA Galaxy	5	1	2	17	10
4.	LA Galaxy	5	1	2	17	10
5.	LA Galaxy	5	1	2	17	10
6.	LA Galaxy	5	1	2	17	10
7.	LA Galaxy	5	1	2	17	10
8.	LA Galaxy	5	1	2	17	10
9.	LA Galaxy	5	1	2	17	10
10.	LA Galaxy	5	1	2	17	10

Pro soccer

MLS

Western Conference

Through April 22

Rank	Team	W	L	T	Pts	Goal Diff
1.	LA Galaxy	5	1	2	17	10
2.	LA Galaxy	5	1	2	17	10
3.	LA Galaxy	5	1			

NBA PLAYOFFS



JOE SKIPPER/AP

Sixers forward Ersan Ilyasova, who is from Turkey, reacts after his third-quarter score against the Heat on Saturday in Miami.

Global: Sixers embrace wildly different backgrounds

FROM BACK PAGE

He spent nearly two decades living overseas, spending most of that time coaching in Australia before getting hired by the San Antonio Spurs — another franchise that has found championship ingredients from all over the world — back in 2002. Brown went to Philadelphia in 2013, took loss after loss after loss for his first four seasons when The Process was playing itself out, and now is reaping the rewards.

The 76ers are young. They're brash. They're fearless. And they're legit.

"A lot of the guys growing up overseas, we have that European style of play," Simmons said. "It's a lot different than the U.S. style."

Simmons is still a kid, in the NBA sense. He's 21. But he's already seen the world with a basketball in hand: He's played all over Australia, represented his country in Lithuania at the FIBA World U17 Championships as a 15-year-old, ended up going to high school in Florida and spent his lone year of college at LSU. "I've seen a lot," Simmons said. "I've played everywhere."

The pose shows, with the rookie shining in his first playoffs.

Embiid, also in his first playoffs and with a mask protecting his surgically repaired face, has handled playing injured with ease. Belinelli has been a steady-

ing force since he got to Philadelphia two months ago. Saric has been doing things in these playoffs that can draw comparisons to what that countrymen Drzen Petrovic and Peja Stojakovic did before him. Ilyasova has been a key player for Philadelphia since getting rescued from Atlanta in February.

They all think differently, many learned the game differently, and the backgrounds are wildly different.

But it works.

A record 62 players from 33 countries were on playoff rosters across the NBA this season, and no one had more of them than Philadelphia — the 76ers have seven international guys with them for the postseason, matching Utah for the league lead.

"My English isn't that good, Dario's isn't that good, but we try to be a great group," Belinelli said. "And we are. We go to dinner all together, we spend a lot of time together in the locker room after practice. It's just part of the work, I think. Having all these guys from different parts of the world, it's a good thing."

Brown, a coach in three Olympics, couldn't agree more.

"This global instinct and sort of global feeling that we have in Philadelphia interests me very much," Brown said. "I embrace it. For me, it's another layer of why I enjoy coaching this team."

Building that Wall

Wizards' guard at elite, explosive best in the postseason

By HOWARD FENDRICH

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Washington Wizards coach Scott Brooks knew John Wall would be back to his explosive, elite self for the playoffs when the All-Star point guard was able to play 38 minutes in a regular-season loss at Cleveland.

It took Wall one additional outing to be absolutely certain he'd be OK after coming back from surgery on his left knee, pointing to his 29-point, 12-assist effort against Boston five days later.

"I had a big game," he said Monday, looking back at that victory from a couple of weeks ago. "Kind of just started to see shots fall that I was falling short on the couple of games I had before that."

As Wall prepares to lead the No. 8 seed Wizards into Game 5 against the No. 1 seed Raptors on Wednesday night in Toronto, it is as if he never was away for more than two months. As if he never needed that operation in the first place. As if he got a chance to ramp up for the postseason for more than merely four games.

And all of that outside chatter about whether Washington might just be better off without him, based on the team going 8-2 at the start of his absence in January and February, sure seems silly right about now. Especially after Wall carried Washington to a 106-98 victory in Game 4 on Sunday night by scoring eight of the host's last 14 points and adding an assist — plus tight defense on DeMar DeRozan — after Bradley Beal fouled out with about five minutes left.

Did it while playing all 24 minutes in the second half, too. Plus, Wall revealed Monday that he twisted his right ankle down the stretch, although he declared himself fine.

"It's always pulling teeth to try to get him off the court," Brooks said. "I like that. As a coach, you want that."

Now Washington will need to grab a victory on the road at least once to claim a series in which



NATHAN DENETTE, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Wizards guard John Wall) drives into Raptors center Jakob Poeltl during Game 2 of their playoff series on April 17 in Toronto.

the home team has won every game so far.

"You put John Wall on this team for 82 games," Raptors coach Dwane Casey said, "and I guarantee they wouldn't be eighth."

Instead, Wall appeared in only 41 games this season, missing all four that Washington played against Toronto. But he sure is looking good when the games count the most.

He is averaging 26.8 points, 13 assists and 4.8 rebounds in the series.

And here's an obscure, yet telling, stat offered up by the Wizards: Wall joined Magic Johnson as the only players with at least 27 points, 14 assists and six rebounds in two consecutive playoff games.

"It was just a matter of time before he got back to himself," Wizards forward Markieff Morris said. "He just needed to get some games under his belt. Basically, just get his feet under him, get his wind back, and he would get back to how he was playing. Because he's a competitor."

That aspect of Wall's persona came out when he was trading barbs with Canadian rapper Drake during the series' first two games in Toronto, when the Raptors were taking a 2-0 lead.

"I told him to be here for Game 3. He told me he was going to be here. Didn't show up. He told me we were getting swept and he had the broom for us," Wall said. "I wanted him to know they weren't going to sweep us."

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MLB

Only Nats, Red Sox on pace for luxury tax

By RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Boston Red Sox and Washington Nationals are the only teams on track to pay baseball's luxury tax this year, according to opening-day payroll totals compiled by Major League Baseball and obtained by The Associated Press.

Boston's payroll at the start of the season for purposes of the tax was \$233.9 million, which would cause the Red Sox to pay a \$94 million tax. Washington's payroll was \$201 million, which would result in a tax of \$1.2 million.

San Francisco was just below the \$197 million tax threshold at \$196.66 million. The Giants were followed by the Chicago Cubs at \$183.9 million, Houston at \$182.4 million, the Los Angeles Dodgers at \$181.99 million and the New York Yankees at \$178.8 million.

New York was over the threshold from 2003-17, paying \$341 million. The Dodgers have had the highest tax bill for the past four seasons and have paid nearly \$150 million over the last five years.

By not paying tax this year, the Yankees and Dodgers would reset their base tax rates in 2018 from 50 percent to 20 percent of the amount over next year's threshold of \$206 million. That would put them in better position heading into a free-agent class that includes Bryce Harper, Manny Machado, Josh Donaldson and potentially Clayton Kershaw, who has the right to opt out of his deal with the Dodgers.

Boston's base tax rate was 30 percent in 2016 but reset to 20 percent because the Red Sox dropped below the threshold last year. Under the surtax rules in the collective bargaining agreement that began last year, the rate for the Red Sox rises to 32 percent on the amount above \$217 million this year, and the rate would rise to 62.5 percent on any amount above \$237 million.

Because Washington paid tax last year, the Nationals' base rate is 30 percent and would rise to 32 percent on any amount above \$237 million.

Luxury tax payrolls are based on the average annual value of contracts of all players on 40-man rosters and include \$14,044,600 in benefits. End-of-season totals also will include earned bonuses plus reflect roster changes made throughout the season.

Scoreboard

American League

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	17	4	.813	0
Toronto	13	8	.619	4
New York	12	9	.571	5
Tampa Bay	8	13	.381	9
Baltimore	12	17	.261	12
Central Division				
Cleveland	12	8	.600	—
Minnesota	8	9	.471	2½
Detroit	9	11	.450	3
Chicago	8	14	.363	4
Kansas City	5	15	.250	7½
West Division				
Houston	15	8	.667	—
Los Angeles	15	8	.652	½
Seattle	11	10	.524	3½
Oakland	12	11	.522	3½
Texas	8	16	.333	8

National League

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	14	6	.700	—
Philadelphia	17	4	.813	0
Atlanta	12	9	.571	2½
Washington	10	13	.435	4
St. Louis	15	8	.652	—
Milwaukee	14	9	.610	½
Pittsburgh	12	10	.545	1½
Chicago	10	10	.500	2
Cincinnati	8	18	.308	9½
Central Division				
St. Louis	15	8	.652	—
Milwaukee	14	9	.610	½
Pittsburgh	12	10	.545	1½
Chicago	10	10	.500	2
Cincinnati	8	18	.308	9½
West Division				
Arizona	15	6	.714	—
Colorado	11	10	.524	4
San Francisco	12	10	.500	4½
San Diego	9	15	.375	7½

Monday's games

Cleveland 2, Baltimore 1				
N.Y. Yankees 4, Minnesota 1				
Oakland 4, Texas 4				
L.A. Angels 2, Houston 0				
Chicago White Sox 10, Seattle 4				
Cincinnati 10, Atlanta 5				
San Diego 13, Colorado 5				
San Francisco 2, Miami 1				
San Francisco 4, Washington 2				

Tuesday's games

Seattle at Chicago White Sox				
Minnesota at N.Y. Yankees				
Detroit at Pittsburgh				
Cleveland 2, Baltimore 1				
Boston at Toronto				
Los Angeles 2, Texas 4				
L.A. Angels at Houston				
Milwaukee at Kansas City				
Philadelphia at Arizona				
San Francisco 2, St. Louis				
San Diego at Colorado				
Minnesota 4, L.A. Dodgers				
Washington at San Francisco				

Wednesday's games

L.A. Angels (Tropiano 1-1) at Houston (Verlander 3-0)				
San Francisco (Lincecum 2-2) at Chicago White Sox (TBD)				
Minnesota (Lynn 0-1) at N.Y. Yankees (Gray 1-1)				
Tampa Bay (Boyd 0-1) at Pittsburgh (Taillon 2-1)				
Detroit (Archer 1-1) at Baltimore (Bundy 1-2)				
Boston (Rodriguez 2-0) at Toronto (Sullivan 1-3)				
Chicago Cubs (Lester 2-0) at Cleveland (Bauer 1-2)				
Oakland (Grevenmeyer 0-4) at Texas (Fister 1-2)				
Milwaukee (Anderson 2-1) at Kansas City (Hammer 1-0)				
San Diego (Ross 2-1) at Colorado (Gray 1-4)				
Washington (Scherzer 4-1) at Cincinnati (Friedman 2-2)				
Atlanta (Wisler 1-0) at Cincinnati (Friedman 2-2)				
Arizona (Greinke 2-1) at Philadelphia (Arrieta 2-2)				
San Francisco (Lincecum 2-2) at St. Louis (Wacha 3-1)				

Reds 10, Braves 4

Atlanta				
	ab	r	h	bi
Intarcie C	4	0	0	0
Albies B	4	0	0	0
FFman RF	4	1	1	0
Men RF	1	3	3	0
K.Suzuki C	4	0	0	0
Wright P	1	3	3	0
Swanson S	3	0	0	0
R.Hartley P	2	0	0	0
Flynn CF	2	0	0	0
S.Frman P	0	0	0	0
Chern P	0	0	0	0
Biddle P	0	0	0	0
Schiv P	0	0	0	0
Totals	34	4	7	3

Atlanta				
	ab	r	h	bi
Freeman LF	4	3	2	4
Freeman LF	1	3	3	2
Moylet S	1	2	2	0
Biddle P	1	3	3	1
Socolovich P	1	3	3	1
Totals	6	4	2	1

Atlanta				
	ab	r	h	bi
Freeman LF	4	3	2	4
Freeman LF	1	3	3	2
Moylet S	1	2	2	0
Biddle P	1	3	3	1
Socolovich P	1	3	3	1
Totals	6	4	2	1

S.Frman pitched 3 batters in the 6th T-311. A-5-463 (42,319).



Yankees designated hitter Giancarlo Stanton watches his fifth-inning, solo home run against the Minnesota Twins in New York on Monday.

Athletics 9, Rangers 4

Oakland				
	ab	r	h	bi
Semien ss	6	2	1	0
PCotby rf	4	1	0	0
Lowe Jr. 2b	4	2	0	0
K.Davis dh	3	0	1	0
M.Chipm 3b	4	1	1	0
Gallo lf	4	1	1	0
M.Olson lb	4	1	0	0
Canha cf	4	2	1	0
Pinder lf	2	0	1	0
Joyce ph-cf	2	0	1	0
Simski pf-2b	4	0	1	0
Totals	38	14	9	1

Texas				
	ab	r	h	bi
DShelds cf	4	0	0	0
Choo dh	4	0	0	0
Mazzer lf	4	0	0	0
Beltre 3b	4	1	1	0
Prokar ss	3	1	1	0
Guzman lb	3	0	0	0
Knf-Frals 2b	3	1	1	0
Totals	30	2	3	1

Oakland				
	ab	r	h	bi
DShelds cf	4	0	0	0
Choo dh	4	0	0	0
Mazzer lf	4	0	0	0
Beltre 3b	4	1	1	0
Prokar ss	3	1	1	0
Guzman lb	3	0	0	0
Knf-Frals 2b	3	1	1	0
Totals	30	2	3	1

Texas				
	ab	r	h	bi
DShelds cf	4	0	0	0
Choo dh	4	0	0	0
Mazzer lf	4	0	0	0
Beltre 3b	4	1	1	0
Prokar ss	3	1	1	0
Guzman lb	3	0	0	0
Knf-Frals 2b	3	1	1	0
Totals	30	2	3	1

Oakland				
	ab	r	h	bi
DShelds cf	4	0	0	0
Choo dh	4	0	0	0
Mazzer lf	4	0	0	0
Beltre 3b	4	1	1	0
Prokar ss	3	1	1	0
Guzman lb	3	0	0	0
Knf-Frals 2b	3	1	1	0
Totals	30	2	3	1

Texas				
	ab	r	h	bi
DShelds cf	4	0	0	0
Choo dh	4	0	0	0
Mazzer lf	4	0	0	0
Beltre 3b	4	1	1	0
Prokar ss	3	1	1	0
Guzman lb	3	0	0	0
Knf-Frals 2b	3	1	1	0
Totals	30	2	3	1

Oakland				
	ab	r	h	bi
DShelds cf	4	0	0	0
Choo dh	4	0	0	0
Mazzer lf	4	0	0	0
Beltre 3b	4	1	1	0
Prokar ss	3	1	1	0
Guzman lb	3	0	0	0
Knf-Frals 2b	3	1	1	0
Totals	30	2	3	1

Texas				
	ab	r	h	bi
DShelds cf	4	0	0	0
Choo dh	4	0	0	0
Mazzer lf	4	0	0	0
Beltre 3b	4	1	1	0
Prokar ss	3	1	1	0
Guzman lb	3	0	0	0
Knf-Frals 2b	3	1	1	0
Totals	30	2	3	1

Oakland				
	ab	r	h	bi
DShelds cf	4	0	0	0
Choo dh	4	0	0	0
Mazzer lf	4	0	0	0
Beltre 3b	4	1	1	0
Prokar ss	3	1	1	0
Guzman lb	3	0	0	0
Knf-Frals 2b	3	1	1	0
Totals	30	2	3	1

Texas				
	ab	r	h	bi
DShelds cf	4	0	0	0
Choo dh	4	0	0	0
Mazzer lf	4	0	0	0
Beltre 3b	4	1	1	0
Prokar ss	3	1	1	0
Guzman lb	3	0	0	0
Knf-Frals 2b	3	1	1	0
Totals	30	2	3	1

Oakland				
	ab	r	h	bi
DShelds cf	4	0	0	0
Choo dh	4	0	0	0
Mazzer lf	4	0	0	0
Beltre 3b	4	1	1	0
Prokar ss	3	1	1	0
Guzman lb	3	0	0	0
Knf-Frals 2b	3	1	1	0
Totals	30	2	3	1

Texas				
	ab	r	h	bi
DShelds cf	4	0	0	0
Choo dh	4	0	0	0
Mazzer lf	4	0	0	0
Beltre 3b	4	1	1	0
Prokar ss	3	1	1	0
Guzman lb	3	0	0	0
Knf-Frals 2b	3	1	1	0
Totals	30	2	3	1

Oakland				
	ab	r	h	bi
DShelds cf	4	0	0	0
Choo dh	4	0	0	0
Mazzer lf	4	0	0	0
Beltre 3b	4	1	1	0
Prokar ss	3	1	1	0
Guzman lb	3	0	0	0
Knf-Frals 2b	3	1	1	0
Totals	30	2	3	1

Texas				
	ab	r	h	bi
DShelds cf	4	0	0	0
Choo dh	4	0	0	0
Mazzer lf	4	0	0	0
Beltre 3b	4	1	1	0
Prokar ss	3	1	1	0

MLB

Roundup

Skaggs dazzles as Angels blank Astros

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Yuli Gurriel was thrown out at third base by catcher Martin Maldonado to end the game after an original safe call was reversed on replay, giving the Los Angeles Angels a 2-0 win over Houston on Monday night that ended the Astros' six-game winning streak.

Third base umpire Cory Blaser signaled safe. Blaser also called Colorado's Nolan Arenado safe at home plate Sunday trying to advance on a ball in the dirt. That call was then reversed on replay for the final out in the Chicago Cubs' 9-7 win.

Tyler Skaggs (3-1) allowed four hits in seven innings for the Angels, and Keynan Middleton earned his sixth save. The Astros outscored the White Sox 27-2 during a three-game sweep last weekend.

Kole Calhoun had an RBI single and Justin Upton added an RBI double.

Gerrit Cole (2-1) retired his first 13 batters, striking out five. He gave up two runs and four hits in seven innings.

Yankees 14, Twins 1: Streaking rookie Miguel Andujar homered and doubled to extend his barrage of extra-base hits, Didi Gregorius had a grand slam and host New York hammered Minnesota for its first three-game winning streak under new manager Aaron Boone.

Slumping slugger Giancarlo Stanton homered in going 4-for-4 and Gleyber Torres singled for his first major league hit, a day after the prized 21-year-old made his debut with the Yankees.

Dodgers 2, Marlins 1: Cody Bellinger drove in the go-ahead run with a sacrifice fly in the eighth, prized prospect Walker Buehler tossed five scoreless innings in his first major league start and host Los Angeles defeated Miami.

Buehler topped out at 99 mph while allowing four hits in an 89-pitch outing. The 23-year-old right-hander struck out five and walked three in helping the Dodgers (11-10) move above .500 for the first time this season with their third straight win.

Giants 4, Nationals 2: Mac Williamson hit a two-run homer to lead Chris Stratton



ERIC CHRISTIAN SMITH/AP

Los Angeles Angels starting pitcher Tyler Skaggs delivers during the first inning of a baseball game against the Astros in Houston.

and host San Francisco past Washington.

Stratton (2-1) struck out five in 6½ innings, allowing two runs and four hits.

Indians 2, Orioles 1: Carlos Carrasco outpitched Kevin Gausman in a tight duel, and Yonder Alonso's two-run homer carried visiting Cleveland past Baltimore.

Reds 10, Braves 4: Jesse Winker's bases-loaded single provided his team's

first lead in six games, and host Cincinnati — off to the worst start in its history — rallied to beat Atlanta for their first victory under interim manager Jim Riggleman.

White Sox 10, Mariners 4: Jose Abreu had four hits, including two home runs, Yoan Moncada was a single shy of the cycle and host Chicago beat Seattle to stop a seven-game losing streak.

Athletics 9, Rangers 4: Marcus Semien hit a tiebreaking homer on the first pitch of the ninth inning and visiting Oakland defeated Texas for its third straight victory.

Padres 13, Rockies 5: Carlos Asuaje homered and had a career-high four RBIs, Franchy Cordero went deep during a nine-run seventh inning and visiting San Diego romped past Colorado.

Face guards have become all the rage this season

By RYAN DIVISH

The Seattle Times

Is this latest trend more about fashion or function?

The merits of safety and protection are obvious. But then again, Major League Baseball is a lot like a high school where if the popular kids do something, everyone else is soon to follow. Maybe it's cool to be cautious?

Whatever the impetus or reasoning, the latest fashion fad on the field is face-guard flaps.

Not familiar? Well, you haven't been watching baseball lately. The majority of hitters have added the padded plastic that is bolted to the earflap on the batting helmet and extends down a player's jaw line, covering the cheek bone.

In the Mariners' lineup Saturday night, Robinson Cano, Nelson Cruz, Mitch Haniger and Mike Zunino all had the face guards attached to their helmets. Outfielder Guillermo Heredia, who wasn't in the lineup, and first



TED S. WARREN/AP

The Seattle Mariners' Nelson Cruz added the face guard to his batting helmet after the scouting report on him said opposing pitchers should tie him up by throwing fastballs up and in.

baseman Ryon Healy, who is on the disabled list, also wear it.

This isn't just a trend on the

Mariners. When the Astros played in Seattle, six of the nine players in the lineup had face guards.

"With as hard as guys are throwing right now and the movement they have on the ball, it makes sense," Mariners manager Scott Servais said.

In past years, players who had been previously struck in the face were the only ones that wore the guards.

Haniger was the first player on the Mariners to do so last season. He doesn't consider himself a trendsetter. He didn't particularly enjoy his reasons for being the first.

"Yeah, no one wants to get hit in the face," he said.

On a bright and sunny Saturday at Safeco Field on July 29, Mets right-hander Jacob deGrom uncorked a 95-mph fastball that rode up and in on Haniger. At the last second, he was able to turn his head as the ball struck him in the cheek and mouth, tearing apart his upper lip and leaving a facial contusion.

Cano started wearing the guard

last year after Haniger's injury but went back to his old helmet.

"I didn't feel comfortable," he said. "It was hard to get used to."

But he was determined to get used to it and wear it going forward in 2018.

"I said to myself, 'I'm going to use it all spring training to get used to it,'" he said.

The scouting report on Cruz is tie the large man up with fastballs up and in. Aware of it, he decided to add the faceguard.

"I mean, why not?" Cruz said.

Baseball players are creatures of habit and routine. And even something as changing the safety equipment can take away a level of comfort.

"There's two ways to look at it," third baseman Kyle Seager said. "You put something on your face that you aren't used to, that's uncomfortable. But at the same time, not worrying about getting hit in the face should make you more comfortable in the box."

NFL/SPORTS BRIEFS

NFL briefs

Seahawks still open to signing Kaepernick

Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — Pete Carroll said Monday the Seattle Seahawks have not closed the door on the possibility of adding Colin Kaepernick to their roster, but how much further they pursue it may depend on the upcoming NFL Draft.

"We're still battling on all fronts, on all guys. We're still looking at guys and evaluating. There are still free agents we're looking at and in that the process just continues," Carroll said. "We've gone through the information gathering and we have a pretty good feel for where we are. It's ongoing. We're not done with that decision at all."

Reports surfaced earlier this month that Seattle pulled out of a planned workout for Kaepernick, who has been without an NFL team since the end of the 2016 season. Seattle has been one of the few teams to show any interest in Kaepernick following his protests during the national anthem in the 2016 season with San Francisco.

Carroll said the reports of what happened with the intended workout were "blown up."

"I think we've been working at this thing for some time now. I don't think that was really as telling as it came across," Carroll said. "We're really aware of him and he's a fine football player and there may be a place for him. We don't know that yet."

Whether Seattle revisits Kaepernick may be answered during this week's draft and if the Seahawks invest a draft pick in a quarterback for the first time since selecting Russell Wilson in the 2012 draft, Seattle has signed backups Stephen Morris and Austin Davis this offseason.



MARCO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

Seahawks coach Pete Carroll said Seattle has not closed the door on the possibility of adding former 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick, above, to its roster, but how much further the team pursues him might depend on the upcoming NFL Draft.

Police investigating Irving

FRISCO, Texas — Police in a Dallas suburb are investigating a domestic violence complaint against Dallas Cowboys defensive lineman David Irving from a woman who later recanted.

Frisco police spokesman Radd Rotello said Monday no arrests have been made.

Rotello said a woman identified as Irving's girlfriend called police twice Sunday. After several media reports Monday, the woman wrote in a message posted on Instagram that her allegations were false. She said she was upset over an argument that led to neighbors calling 911.

"David did not put his hands on me at any time," the woman wrote.

NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said the league will look into the incident. A spokesman for the team and Irving's agent declined comment.

Hester, Forte retire with Bears

LAKE FOREST, Ill. — It's easy to see former Chicago Bears standouts Devin Hester and Matt Forte as players with skills in decreasing demand.

For Hester, he's not happy about the possibility the NFL could soon eliminate one of his fortes — the kickoff return.

"At the end of the day kickoff and punt return is one of the key aspects of the quality of football," Hester said. "You've got to let these guys play football. It is what it is."

"You try to find ways to eliminate injuries. But the minute you step on the field you're bound to get hurt somewhere. That's just the nature of the beast. And I think taking that out of the game is big. I don't like to see it happen."

Hester and Forte both signed one-day contracts with their original team Monday at Halas Hall so they could retire as Bears, and an emotional ceremony capped careers rich in highlight-reel material for the former second-round draft picks.

Forte decided to retire after an injury-filled 2017 season with the Jets.

Colts' Freeney calls it quits

INDIANAPOLIS — Dwight Freeney mastered the art of spinning long before he reached the NFL.

He kept his body low, his head up and his

eyes focused on the quarterback. It made him different, and it made him one of the NFL's great pass rushers.

On Monday, after 16 seasons of chasing quarterbacks and making offensive linemen look silly, the former Indianapolis Colts star returned to his adopted hometown to sign a one-day contract to retire with the Colts.

Freeney didn't shed tears or make some long, laudatory speeches. He kept it simple and down to earth — the same way he emerged as a leader in a locker room full of offensive stars.

Instead, his parents, his fiancée, Colts owner Jim Irsay and some former teammates and coaches celebrated the 38-year-old who outlasted and outperformed most of his contemporaries.

He leaves the game with one Super Bowl ring, having played in two other Super Bowls, seven Pro Bowls selections and three first-team All-Pro selections.

49ers' Foster could be cut

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — San Francisco general manager John Lynch said Monday the team will be patient through linebacker Reuben Foster's legal issues in a domestic violence case but stressed he won't remain on the 49ers if the team determines he hit a woman.

Lynch spoke publicly for the first time since Foster was charged with felony domestic violence on April 12 after being accused by authorities of dragging his girlfriend and punching her in the head, leaving her with a ruptured eardrum.

"The gravity of these charges has not been lost on us," Lynch said. "We take it extremely seriously. We do feel like patience is the right approach right now. We're going to learn things through this legal process. I do want to be very clear, abundantly clear, that if these charges are proven true, if Reuben indeed hit this young lady, he won't be a part of our organization going forward."

The 49ers announced a few days later that Foster would not take part in the offseason program while he deals with the legal matter.

Lynch said he expects that to remain the case until something changes, meaning Foster will remain away from the team until his legal case is resolved.

Briefly

Newgarden wins IndyCar race

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Josef Newgarden won Monday at Barber Motorsports Park for the third time in four years.

Newgarden led virtually the entire way after starting the Indy Grand Prix of Alabama on the pole in a dominant performance that gave him his second win in the first four races this season. Heavy rains on Sunday forced IndyCar to run the final 1 hour, 15 minutes of the timed race on Monday.

The result was familiar: a Newgarden win on the picturesque road course a few hours from his Tennessee hometown, often labeled his "home track."

Newgarden finished with a 10-second advantage over two-time race winner Ryan Hunter-Reay, followed by James Hinchcliffe, rookie Robert Wickens and Sebastien Bourdais.

Flames hire Peters as coach

CALGARY, Alberta — The Calgary Flames hired Bill Peters as the team's head coach Monday.

The Flames introduced Peters at a news conference at Scotiabank Saddledome. The 53-year-old from Three Hills, Alberta, resigned as head coach of the Carolina Hurricanes on Friday after four seasons and a year remaining on his contract.

The Flames fired Glen Gulutzan and assistants Dave Cameron and Paul Gerrard last week after missing the playoffs with a 37-35-10 record.

In his NHL head coaching debut, Peters went 137-138-53 with the Hurricanes but wasn't able to get the team into the playoffs.

Wild split with GM Fletcher

ST. PAUL, Minn. — The Minnesota Wild split with general manager Chuck Fletcher after nine seasons with only two playoff series wins.

Wild owner Craig Leipold met with Fletcher on Monday to tell him the club was not renewing his contract. He then addressed the players.

The Wild have six straight postseason appearances, matching the longest-running streak in the Western Conference, but they have not reached the second round since 2015.

Leipold, who took over the organization the year before hiring Fletcher, said the move was unrelated to the Wild's early exit. They lost in five games in the first round to the Winnipeg Jets, after being ousted in five games in 2017 by the St. Louis Blues. Last year, Leipold declined to extend Fletcher's deal.

Morocco's bid under scrutiny

Morocco's World Cup bid is facing fresh scrutiny this week with the arrival of another delegation from FIFA after an initial task force found deficiencies in the proposals for the 2026 tournament.

In a downbeat conclusion to the visit by the inspectors last week, Morocco's bid leader acknowledged it had to improve the quality of the submission made to FIFA in March because inadequacies were identified by football's governing body.

The previously unplanned second inspection of Morocco is an indication of the more rigorous process introduced by FIFA following criticism in 2010 that World Cups were awarded to the riskiest nations in 2018 (Russia) and 2022 (Qatar).

There will also be closer scrutiny of human rights of the bidders before the vote on June 13 when Morocco is currently due to be taking on a joint challenge from the United States, Canada and Mexico.

— Associated Press



DARRON CUMMINGS/AP

Dwight Freeney speaks during a news conference Monday at the Indianapolis Colts' practice facility. Freeney retired after 16 years in the NFL.

NHL PLAYOFFS

Scoreboard

First round

(Best-of-seven; x-if necessary)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Tampa Bay 4, New Jersey 1
 Tampa Bay 5, New Jersey 2
 Tampa Bay 3, New Jersey 3
 New Jersey 5, Tampa Bay 2
 Tampa Bay 3, New Jersey 1
 Tampa Bay 3, New Jersey 1
Boston 3, Toronto 3

Boston 5, Toronto 1
 Boston 7, Toronto 3
 Toronto 4, Boston 2
 Boston 3, Toronto 1
 Toronto 4, Boston 3

Monday: Toronto 3, Boston 1

Wednesday: at Boston

Washington 4, Columbus 2
 Columbus 4, Washington 4, OT
 Washington 3, Columbus 2, 2OT
 Washington 2, Columbus 1
 Washington 4, Columbus 3, OT

Pittsburgh 4, Philadelphia 2

Pittsburgh 5, Philadelphia 0
 Philadelphia 5, Pittsburgh 1
 Pittsburgh 5, Philadelphia 1
 Philadelphia 0, Philadelphia 0
 Philadelphia 4, Pittsburgh 2

Pittsburgh 3, Philadelphia 5

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Nashville 4, Colorado 2

Nashville 5, Colorado 2
 Nashville 0, Nashville 3
 Nashville 3, Colorado 2
 Colorado 2, Nashville 1
 Nashville 5, Colorado 0

Winnipeg 4, Minnesota 1

Winnipeg 3, Minnesota 2
 Winnipeg 4, Minnesota 1
 Minnesota 6, Winnipeg 2
 Winnipeg 2, Minnesota 0
 Winnipeg 5, Minnesota 0

Vegas 4, Los Angeles 0

Vegas 1, Los Angeles 0
 Vegas 2, Los Angeles 1, 2OT
 Vegas 3, Los Angeles 2
 Vegas 1, Los Angeles 0

San Jose 4, Anaheim 0

San Jose 3, Anaheim 0
 San Jose 3, Anaheim 2
 San Jose 8, Anaheim 1
 San Jose 2, Anaheim 1

Monday

Maple Leafs 3, Bruins 1

Boston 0 1 0-1
 Toronto 0 2 1-3

Second Period—1, Boston, DeBrusk 3 (Krejci), 1:02; 2, Toronto, Nylander 3 (Zaitsev, Kadri), 1:37; 3, Toronto, Marnier 2 (Plekanec, Hainsey), 15:25.

Third Period—4, Toronto, Plekanec 2 (Marnier, Zaitsev), 15:46.

Shots on Goal—Boston 17-9-7-33, Toronto 10-12-6-30.

Power-play opportunities—Boston 0 of 2; Toronto 0 of 3.

Goalies—Boston, Rask 3-3 (29 shots-27 saves); Toronto, Andersen 3-2 (33-32).

A-19,694 (18,819), T-243.

Capitals 6, Blue Jackets 3

Washington 0 1 2-3
 Columbus 2 2 2-3

First Period—1, Washington, Orlov 1 (Niskanen, Orosz), 12:30.

Second Period—2, Columbus, Foligno 1 (Pile, Suter), 1:01; 3, Washington, Ovechkin 4 (Dripik, Djosi), 12:50; 4, Washington, Ovechkin 5 (Carlson, Kuznetsov), 16:23 (go).

Third Period—5, Columbus, Dubois 2 (Calvert), 2:25; 6, Washington, Smith-Pelly 2, 3:56; 7, Washington, Stephenson 1 (Orlik, Beagle), 5:30 (sh.); 8, Columbus, Foligno 2 (Jenner, Bjorkstrand), 8:22; 9, Washington, Eller 2 (Beagle), 15:46.

Shots on Goal—Washington 10-12-6-28, Columbus 5-14-17-38.

Power-play opportunities—Washington 1 of 3; Columbus 0 of 4.

Goalies—Washington, Holtby 4-1 (38 shots-35 saves); Columbus, Bobrovsky 2-4 (27-22).

A-15,667 (18,500), T-228.



FRANK GUNN, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Maple Leafs center Tomas Plekanec celebrates his empty-net goal Monday in Toronto.

Caps advance, face Pens again

BY MITCH STACY

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — After dropping the first two playoff games at home in overtime, the Washington Capitals picked up momentum that only got stronger as they took down the Columbus Blue Jackets in four straight.

Now they'll strive to keep the intensity high as they advance to a second-round rematch with the Pittsburgh Penguins.

The Capitals, who manhandled the Blue Jackets 6-3 on Monday to cap the opening-round series, are looking to avenge second-round playoff losses to Pittsburgh in each of the past two seasons.

"I can't wait to take a step forward," said Washington star forward Alex Ovechkin, who had two goals on Monday, including his 50th playoff tally. "They know how to play, they know the pressure. It's a huge series for us."

Goaltender Braden Holtby relieved a struggling Philipp Grubauer in Game 2 and was great the rest of the way. He had 35 saves Monday in a game in which his team was outshot 38-28. Fifteen of the saves were in the third period, when the desperate Blue Jackets turned up the heat.

"[He's] been fantastic," Ovechkin said. "He's stepping up big-time. He's top goalie in the league, and he showed it today and he showed it in the series."

For his part, Washington coach Barry Trotz wasn't ready to talk about Pittsburgh yet after a talk opening-round series.

"Please let me breathe," he said. "We haven't taken a breath since this started."

Chandler Stephenson had a goal and an assist, and Dmitry Orlov, Devante Smith-Pelly and



JAY LAPRET/AP

The Washington Capitals' Chandler Stephenson, right, scores against Blue Jackets goalie Sergei Bobrovsky during the third period of Game 6 of their first-round series Monday in Columbus, Ohio.

Lars Eller also scored Monday for Washington, which never trailed in Game 5's overtime victory on Saturday. The Capitals won each of the three games in Columbus.

One of the stories for Washington was its ability to defend Columbus' power play. After the Blue Jackets went 4-for-8 with a man advantage in the first two games, the Caps held them to 0-for-16 in the last four. Meanwhile, Washington took advantage of Columbus penalties, scoring on

the power play in each of the six games.

"I think going into the year there wasn't a lot of people who said we would finish first in the Metro, and we did that," Trotz said. "And it's just creating a pretty consistent culture, and it's having good players, too. It was a tremendous test for us. We didn't get off to a good start and had to dig ourselves out."

Trotz said he leaned on veterans Ovechkin, Nicklas Back-

strom, Evgeny Kuznetsov and others to keep the Capitals on an even keel through the tumult of the season.

"We've had lots of different adversity through this year and in the past, and we've grown up a little bit in some ways," he said. "We understand that our core group is really, really strong, they believe in each other. We've got a lot of young guys in the room. We've had to rely on our core to push us forward, and we have."

Leafs force seventh game with Bruins

Associated Press

TORONTO — The Toronto Maple Leafs won this one for their city.

Frederik Andersen stopped 32 shots to lead the Maple Leafs to a 3-1 win over the Boston Bruins on Monday night, forcing a decisive Game 7 in the first-round series.

The victory came hours after 10 people were killed when a van drove onto a sidewalk in Toronto's north end and struck multiple pedestrians. Most of the players woke from their pregame naps to learn of the incident at 1:30 p.m. that also injured 15 people.

"We're sending all our love," said Maple Leafs forward Mitch Marnier, who scored the tiebreaking goal and added an assist. "This is a big win for us after an emotional day."

There was a moment of silence for the victims and their families prior the opening faceoff at Air Canada Centre.

"Very tragic event," Bruins forward Brad Marchand said. William Nylander and Tomas



FRANK GUNN, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Maple Leafs goaltender Frederik Andersen takes a puck off his helmet during the third period of Game 6 of the Maple Leafs' first-round series against the Boston Bruins in Toronto.

Plekanec also scored for Toronto. Nikita Zaitsev added two assists, and Plekanec also had one. The Maple Leafs, who trailed the series 3-1 before winning two straight, were behind 1-0 early in

the second period of this one.

Jake DeBrusk scored for the Bruins, and Tuukka Rask — pulled in Game 5 at home, finished with 27 saves.

Game 7 is Wednesday night in

Boston with the winner advancing to face Tampa Bay in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

Scoreless after an end-to-end first period, the Bruins grabbed a 1-0 lead 1:02 into the second when David Krejci won a faceoff after an icing against Auston Matthews right to DeBrusk, beat Andersen between his arm and body.

Toronto responded just 35 seconds later when Nylander buried a rebound of a Jake Gardiner shot from the point for his first goal of the playoffs.

The Maple Leafs went ahead with 6:35 left in the period when Marnier was quickest to a loose puck in the slot and beat Rask with a backhand to the far post after a Washington couldn't clear.

Both goalies were on their game in the first as the clubs combined for 27 shots on goal, including 17 from Boston.

Rask held the fort on the game's first power play, and Andersen followed up with his second incredible stick save of the series when he swatted a David Backes attempt from in tight.

SPORTS



Capitals moving on
Washington tops Columbus
to face nemesis Penguins » **Page 31**

NBA PLAYOFFS



Global threat

Sixers show diversity with top six playoff scorers from different nations

By TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

MIAMI — Philadelphia's six leading average scorers so far in the playoffs, in order are: Ben Simmons, Dario Saric, Joel Embiid, JJ Redick, Marco Belinelli and Ersan Ilyasova.

Their homelands: Australia, Croatia, Cameroon, the United States, Italy and Turkey.

Philadelphia — a melting pot of humanity for more than 300 years — has a basketball team probably as diverse as the city itself. The 76ers, 19-1 in their last 20 games and suddenly looking very much like an NBA Finals contender, will try to close out the Miami Heat and clinch their Eastern Conference opening se-

‘I love the geopolitical conversations. I love that diversity on the court, off the court. I enjoy it.’

Brett Brown
Philadelphia 76ers coach

ries when they play host to Game 5 on Tuesday night.

About a dozen languages and dialects can be spoken in the locker room at any time, but clearly, winning is a universal language.

“It’s all basketball, but the true side of how people coach, speak, say, play the game is different,” 76ers coach Brett Brown said. “And that collection now that I

have with everybody is like is a melting pot of all people’s experiences. That equals a team. I mean, I love it. I love the geopolitical conversations. I love that diversity on the court, off the court. I enjoy it.”

There might be no coach better-suited for this particular gig than Brown, too.

SEE GLOBAL ON PAGE 27



JOE SKIPPER/AP

Heat guard Dwyane Wade, center, shoots between 76ers forward Dario Saric, of Croatia, and Joel Embiid, of Cameroon, on Saturday.

Seahawks still considering QB Kaepernick » **Page 30**

